



THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN

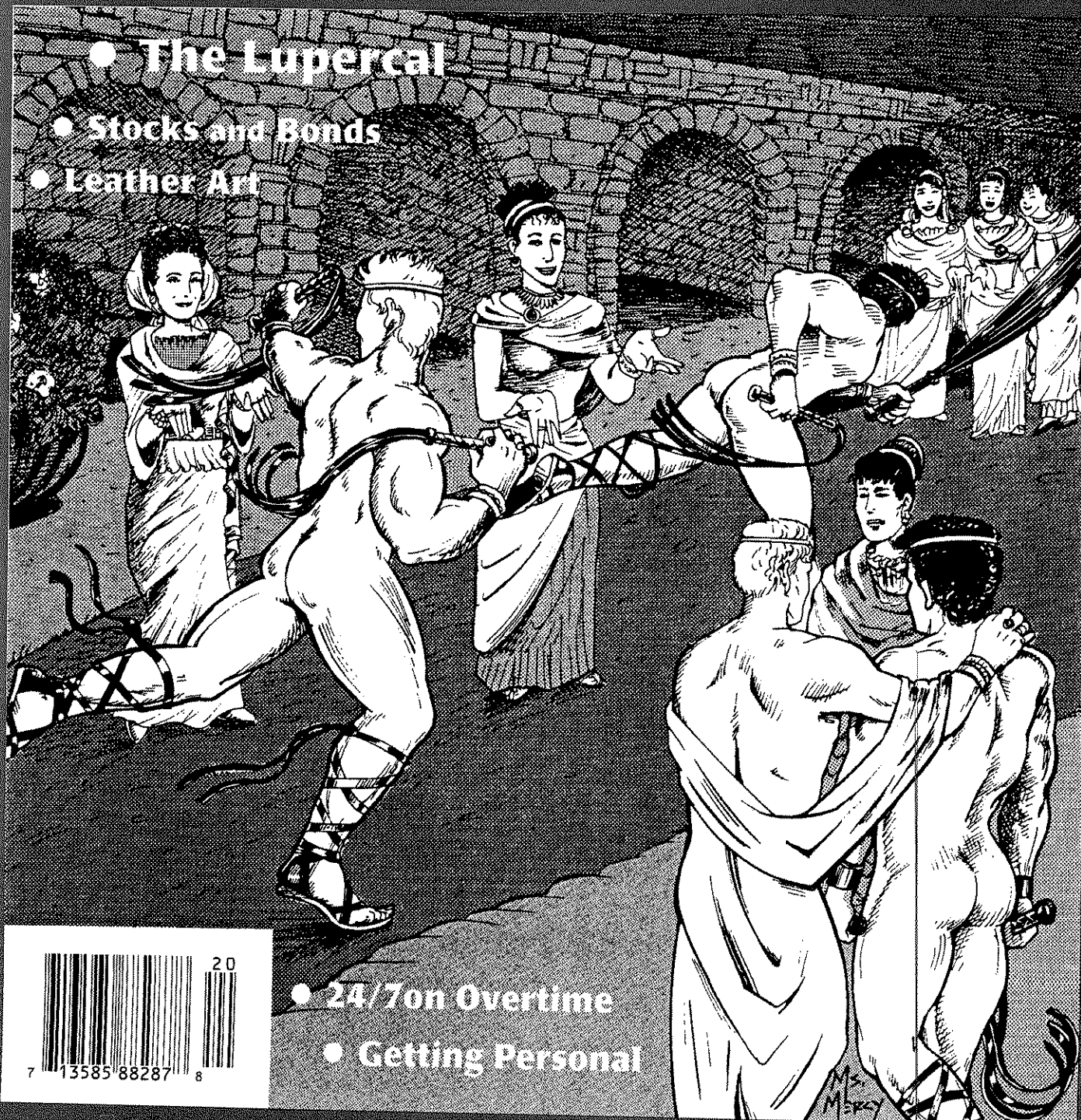
Issue #20

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• The Lupercal

• Stocks and Bonds

• Leather Art



• 24/7on Overtime

• Getting Personal



The SandMUtopian Guardian

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"... but we don't take American Express!"



Our Guardian Angels

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Issue #20

The SandMUTopian Guardian

Published quarterly by:
The Utopian Network
P.O. Box 1146
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Published four times a year by The Utopian Network, a division of ASWGT, Inc., 40 Grant Ave., Copiague, NY 11726. Four issue subscription: \$29 in the US & Canada; \$44 elsewhere. Address all queries regarding subscriptions, advertising, back issues, writers' guidelines and editorial concerns to POB 1146, New York, NY 10156. Distributor: Brush Creek Media, Inc., San Francisco, CA (415) 552-1506.

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ABOUT THE COVER: The Lupercal

by Ms. Mercy

The Lupercalia, or Lupercal, was the last Roman Holiday abolished by the Christian Pope in the 5th Century, albeit with sincere apologies.

Ms. Mercy is a noted NYC artist who works in various media. You will be seeing more of her in future issues.



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Letters to the Editor

Our Readers' Forum

Send comments, queries or criticisms to: Editor, c/o The Utopian Network, PO Box 1146, New York, NY 10156 or FAX to (516) 842-7518. e-mail to siradam@ix.netcom.com. Name and address please, which will be held confidential.

Dear Mitch & Gerrie,

Congratulations on Guardian 18 & 19! I got more out of the two issues than I have from any of the other magazines I've read over the years. As it happened, I read them just before I went out & played with a lady. Results:

— In "Six of the Best", you mention Mistress Nan's "Modern style", which involves swinging up as fast as the actual downstroke. I tried it (just with a riding crop, not my cane), and it really gets your bottom's attention! With the cane, I avoided 'crossing strokes' and got better results — more what I was looking for.

— The Bungee Cord Whips are a great idea. I suggest, though, that readers get the longest & thickest they can, as they shorten up a lot when you strip off the coating, and they are thinner, too. They were quite popular with my friend on her breasts & puss.

— "Playing with Food" reminded me of something I'd forgotten for years — tying & blindfolding a woman, then feeding her strawberries dipped in champagne (also nectarines & boysenberries). Makes a great ten-minute break in the middle of a serious play session.

— "From the Screening Room" & "Secrets of Throwing the (Bull)Whip" — "Throws" and

'Sending the Lash Out' were new concepts to me. I just bought a 6' David Morgan and started playing. Needless to say, replacing the popper with a white one (made it myself, from your article), slowing down the throw, and paying attention to the shape & curve of the lash as it went out made a real difference to my control & accuracy. Since then I've also practiced side-arm throws and underhand throws - I'll let you know how they work. I also oiled my whip thoroughly & ordered the videos.

(All I've been using the 'cracking' of my whip for is scaring my bottom — I was afraid of cutting her. I just lay the lash out behind me and send it forward overhand so that the last foot of the fall lands on her back and behind. Alternately, I send it past her and snap it back across her tummy and thighs. The way I do it leaves thin pink welts, and sometimes a bruise where the welts cross.)

As you can see, your new magazine made quite a bit of difference in my playtime, just the very day I got the first issues. I think you guys are on to something really good here — just what I would expect from the best toy-makers on the planet. Keep up the good work!

Rick S.
Southern California

I just ran across issue #18 of the Guardian. It is a pleasure to find such a high-quality publication. I have been interested in this "field" for quite some time; but have found the vast majority of things on the market exploit rather than inform. ... I would also like to get a copy of your Guidelines for articles.

Frank J.
New Jersey

... let me compliment you on your Stewardship of the Guardian. I have been pleased with the last two issues, especially the timely nature of publication. Something sorely missing in previous publishers.

Tri R.
Maryland

I've just read your issue #19. My first exposure to a thoughtful, well laid out, intelligent magazine on the subjects. Thank you! Please send me back issues #10 and 18 if still available.

David
Connecticut

...Much pleased ... to discover the significant steps forward you have taken ... you are looking good and (no doubt) feeling good about it.

justjack
via email

Message

from
The Publishers

They say "three is the charm." Well, this is our third

issue since assuming the helm of *The Guardian*. And, without (we hope) staying up all night in order to get it finished. It's a way to prove to ourselves, and others, that we are back and here to stay! We *can* really do this and are in it for the long haul, so to speak.

It has been interesting to watch how the magazine is assuming its own character, influenced in part by the articles that are submitted for consideration. We envisioned *The Guardian* as a kind of "popular mechanix of SM." It is growing to more than that as readers, and we, find "thought pieces," or bits of history that apply to our collective lifestyles as well as doing product

for the New Year

testing on the instructions in the articles to see if they really work.

We appreciate your feedback and will continue to publish your letters whether they have criticism, praise ... or some of each. And, as we progress, we too will be offering criticism — and hope it will be accepted in the same constructive manner in which it is offered.

All of us at *The Guardian* are looking forward with anticipation and enthusiasm to the year just starting. We took on this project as a labor of love. And we look forward to having more of you along on the adventure as contributors to the success of this magazine.

Gerrie & Mitch

Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, opens in Rome on the feast of the Lupercal.

In Act I, Scene ii, Caesar, anxious to have an heir, tells his wife Calphurnia,

"Stand you directly in Antonius' way,
When he doth run his course."

Then he admonishes Marc Antony,

"Forget not, in your speed, Antonius,
To touch Calphurnia;

for our elders say,
The barren, touched in this holy chase,
Shake off their sterile curse."

The dutiful Antony replies:

"I shall remember:
when Caesar says,
'Do this,' it is perform'd."



SM people need our own February holiday
that we can really enjoy!

Well, there is one ready and waiting:

The Festival of The Lupercalia (or Lupercal)

1996 marks the 1500th anniversary of the Papal abolition of the Lupercalia — the last of the Roman Holidays to survive into the Christian era, outlasting the Bacchanalia and the Saturnalia. What better opportunity to reintroduce this ancient festival into the SM calendar to take its place alongside Hallowe'en!

The Lupercalia was one of the most ancient observances of the Romans. It recalls one of their central myths: that of twin boys, abandoned at birth and suckled by a She-Wolf, who grew up to be Founders of Rome — Romulus and Remus. By the time of the Republic, the Romans had designated a cave under the Palatine Mount as the actual Cave of the Wolf, calling it the Lupercal, and it was here, on the 15th of February, that the ceremonies of the Festival were performed. A goat was sacrificed with elaborate ritual, and afterwards, naked youths ran through the city carrying thongs made from its skin. *These men were the sons of the five most ancient and aristocratic Patrician families, who believed themselves to be the lineal descendants of the Founders of the City.*

A Victorian clergyman, the Reverend William Cooper tells how these young men would, "strip themselves stark naked, and would run about the streets, carrying straps of goat's leather in their hands, with which they struck such women as they met in their way." One can assume, that the young men also engaged in some friendly preparation for the running of the Lupercal course by "practicing" on each other.

According to the Reverend Mr. Cooper's sources, the women, "did not run away; on the contrary, they willingly presented the palms of their hands to them (the runners) in order to receive the strokes, imagining that these blows, whether applied to their hands or to other parts of their body," could make pregnancy and childbirth easier.

Reverend Cooper goes on to tell us, in his own ingenuous way, that there came a time when, "a great improvement (!) was made in the ceremony. The ladies, no longer contented with being slapped on the palms of their hands ... began to strip themselves also, in order to give a fuller scope to the Lupercal runner and allow him to display the vigour and agility of his arm."

Cooper also asserts that, "It is wickedly said that the ladies became in time completely fascinated with this kind of diversion"; that the ceremony was, "well relished by all parties."

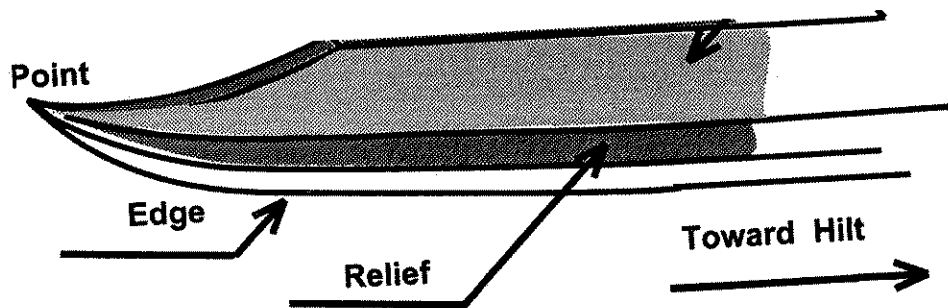
(Can you see it: young men and women, stark naked, whips flying, running through the streets of Rome and enjoying every minute of it ... all in the name of Sacred Tradition and Civic Virtue — and no doubt to the profound annoyance of the Christian Church.)

Fertility worship and public displays of nudity notwithstanding, it was not until after every other trace of Paganism in Roman public life was gone, that Pope Gelasius was able to abolish the Lupercal in 496 C.E. However, this caused so much discontent that he was obliged to write an apology to the faithful for his action. The Church soon found it prudent to replace The Lupercal with The Feast of St Valentine.

Neither was the Church able to wholly abolish sacred flagellation. Whipping ceremonies had been common throughout Rome's Empire. In Egypt, at the "annual festival at Busiris, in honour of the goddess Isis ... the whole assembly, amounting to several thousands of both men and women, beat one another." The Syrians too, "thought that the gods might be appeased by using scourges and whips, and their priests also lashed themselves with an instrument made of twisted woollen cords armed with small bones." People were reluctant to abandon the old ways, and in times of plague or other calamity, tended to shed their clothes and publicly flagellate themselves and each other, well into the 16th century. At other times, the hierarchy seemed satisfied if the practice was restricted to the Religious Orders in the privacy of their houses.

So, this year, 1500 years after the Papal abolition of the festival of the Lupercal, instead of celebrating Valentine's Day with its (diet-busting) chocolates, saccharin sentiments and cut flowers, (which are, when you think about it, just the severed sexual organs of plants), take out your straps, floggers and cats and celebrate the Lupercal! Get naked! Chase your lover around the house, the dungeon or the clubhouse to show him/her that you care!

And, in the Pan-sexual spirit of the '90's, let's forget about which gender does what to whom — just have fun!



TO KEEP A SHARP KNIFE

by Mitch Kessler

With a sharp knife you can release someone from rope bondage more safely than you can with a dull one; faster and more artistically than with a pair of EMT Shears. And, people are impressed when they see a razor-sharp pocket knife take off a cigar or cutting rope to length. It is even possible that someday, having a sharp blade in your pocket will help you meet some desperate emergency, even save a life. However, the pursuit of a fetish owes little to the dictates of "practicality." The real rewards of keeping a sharp blade are psychic rewards you give yourself. There is the meditative value of the process itself, the opportunity to focus on and intensify the fetish factors that leads you to keep a knife in the first place. And there is the sense of mastery and self-improvement earned by developing this ancient skill.

This article will teach one of several methods of sharpening steel knife-type edges which are 1) relatively straight and 2) less than 6" long. Although the same basic principles apply, the specialized edges such as barber's razors, pirates' cutlasses, lumberjack's axes or woodworkers' and machinists' tools, each have their own edge designs and sharpening techniques.

A knife is sharp enough for most purposes if it will shave dry body hair without irritating the skin beneath. A blade this sharp will slice through rope and cloth, carve wood or meat, cut paper, or accomplish any reasonable chore safely and with a minimum of effort. It will be too sharp for some purposes, such as pencil sharpening or knife juggling, and too dull for others, like face-shaving or medical surgery.

SMOOTH EQUALS SHARP

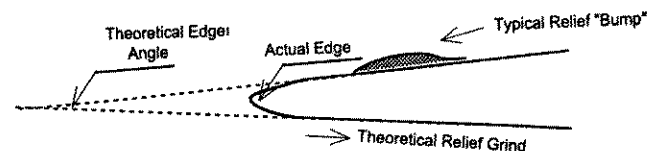
After all the thousands of years people have been using sharpened edges, you'd think engineers would have developed a quantified system to describe and obtain "sharpness." You'd think physicists would have developed a theoretical explanation of "why an edge cuts." They haven't. The best we can do is say that a particular steel, ground to a particular angle, and then polished to a particular smoothness will cut certain mate-

rials in a certain way. However, we do not have to measure edge angles, let alone assign numerical values to metal hardness or degrees of polish. We only need to devise a procedure to get an edge that is sharp enough for the job at hand.

THE SECRETS OF A GOOD EDGE ARE:

Thin "Relief"
Correct Angle
Minimum Radius
High Polish

"Relief" is a concept developed by John Juranitch in *The Razor Edge*. His idea is that a blade, particularly a knife blade, should be as thin as possible, especially for the first 1/4" back from the blade edge. For a knife he advocates a relief angle of roughly 4°. In other words, a blade 1" wide should be about 3/32" thick at the back. When you realize that the angle most generally suggested for the cutting edge of a carving or fillet-knife is 10°, this is a scary concept. Grinding a blade to his idea of "adequate relief," means removing a lot of metal from most knives.

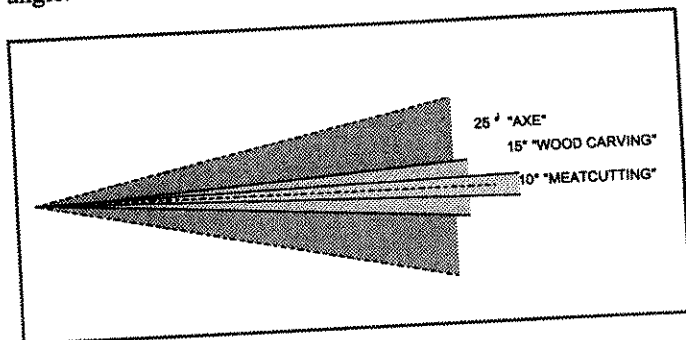


According to Mr. Juranitch "most knives" are made with a "bump" where the relief grind should be. In my own experience, I'd say "many" of the *less expensive* knives suffer from this defect, and while hand-forged blades suffer from it less than die-forged or power-ground edges, even good brand name hollow ground knives can be improved by working on the relief. But this almost always means putting scratches on the

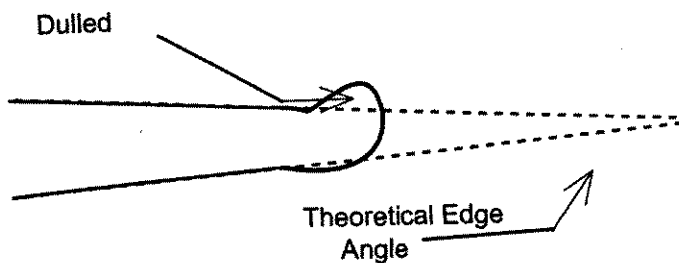
blade from edge to back. This is not a thing you want to do to an engraved, blackened, patterned or mirror-bright knife.

However, after rather a lot of experimentation, I've found that Mr. Juranitch is right. Pocket and sheath knives can be ground to a thickness of .020 at a point 1/4" back from the edge, not have bits of blade break off, and will cut more easily than if the relief were left alone. Modifying a knife's relief takes a good deal of grinding with a fairly coarse stone, but it's worth it.

Nonetheless, my advice to the beginner is to leave the relief alone for a while. Learn to angle and polish the cutting edge and then if the result doesn't produce a knife sharp enough to satisfy you, go back and start working with the relief angle.



The "correct" angle depends on the job the edge has to do. Smaller edge angles slice and cut soft materials (such as meat) cleanly but are easily dulled. Larger edge angles are good for whittling or peeling and are good for harder materials, such as wood. Even larger angles (to 90 degrees) can be used to scrape on the hardest materials the edge alloy can cut, for example hardwoods and metals. If you like numbers, a carving knife would take an angle of 10-15°, a whittling knife might be 15-20°, an axe 25°.



Ideally, the angle of the edge would be formed at the intersection of two truly flat planes ground into the metal. In practice, there is a slight curve to the "sharp" edge. This introduces an element of "bluntness." As the knife is used, the cutting edge is deformed more than it is worn.

Assuming that the relief is as good as it can be, it is **POLISH** that makes the difference between *nearly sharp* and *really*

sharp. At the cutting edge, a blade should be glass-smooth, mirror polished — or better. Ideally, a microscope view of the cutting edge should look like a line of shimmering liquid, more like the aerial view of a river than of a plowed field. It is to obtain this polish that we *must* use a series of increasingly fine abrasives to form an edge, and finish it by honing with materials we would normally think of as smooth.

GRINDING THE ANGLE

In this system of sharpening, an edge has two angles to consider: the "edge" which actually makes the cut, and the "relief" which affects the ease with which the blade will pass through the material being cut. For now you'll ignore the "relief" and concentrate on the edge.

Creating these angles is called the "grind," which is accomplished with a series of abrasive "stones". These are supplied in a bewildering variety of materials, sizes, shapes — and prices. If you've read this far because you want to get better edges on your steel than you have been able to in the past, I'm going to make your life very simple. There's **ONE** sharpening system to buy and **ONE** way to use it.

continued next page



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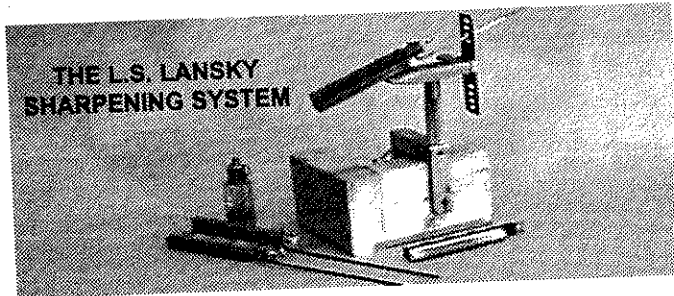
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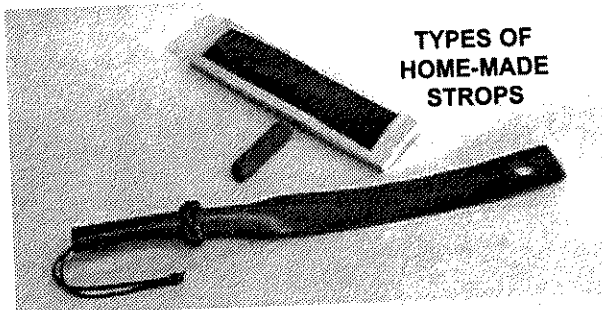
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You NEED:

THE L.S. LANSKY SHARPENING SYSTEM, available in most sporting goods stores and by mail order. The basic kit (\$21) with coarse, medium and fine stones (and some honing oil) will get you well started. Later you may want an extra-coarse stone and perhaps a ceramic, pyramid-shaped stone. The extra-coarse is a great help when grinding relief; the pointed ceramic serves well as a burnishing tool. You have a choice between ceramic and diamond grits. Ceramic works, even on stainless steel, but diamond is much faster and (at \$60) isn't all that much more costly.



The kit also comes with a clamping fixture which removes all of the guesswork and much of the difficulty of setting the angle of the grind, and of maintaining flat cutting planes to get a minimum radius. (The illustration above shows the clamp set onto a wood block base.)

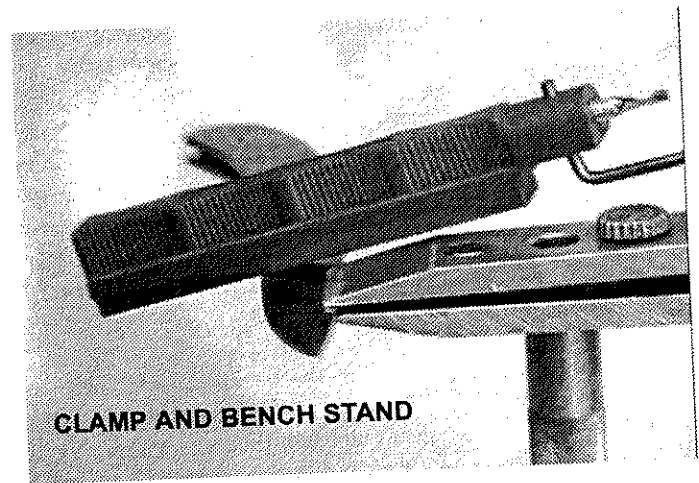


**TYPES OF
HOME-MADE
STROPS**

A LEATHER STROP. For a flexible strop, a well-worn but uncracked garrison type belt, or a 2-3" wide piece of strap leather 18-24" long will do. A rigid strop can be made by gluing a 2-3" wide piece of suede, 10-18" long to a suitable piece of 3/4" plywood. You can also ask for ready made strops at Tandy Leather, (suede), or at a good cutlery store, such as Hoffritz. Barn auctions and thrift stores may yield antique strops of horsehide or other leathers — just be sure that your strop does not have cracks along the surface.

A BURNISHING TOOL. One day you might want to get a burnishing tool. This might be an ultra-fine stone such as "Hard Arkansas Stone." It might be a Chef's Steel. I have gotten good results with a 1" diameter glass rod.

First you'll lock the blade into the clamp. It will be a lot easier if you wind a few rubber bands behind the pivot point.



CLAMP AND BENCH STAND

This holds the jaws of the clamp/guide open as you insert the blade. With the knurled knob unscrewed as far as it will go without falling out, tighten or loosen the slotted screw until the jaws of the guide/clamp are just far enough apart to accept the back edge of the middle of the blade. Tighten the knurled knob until the guide is firmly locked to the blade. Don't be afraid of using a little force.

The whole point of this simple device is that it guides the grinding stone(s) in a straight line path along a determined angle. This minimizes the "rounding over" of the cutting edge which plagues users of hand-held stones and freehand techniques. It doesn't establish a mathematically accurate angle. Don't worry about that. You'll fiddle around with the distance between the bent wire and the stone until you find the setting that lets you grind the "flattest" bevel the blade and clamp configuration will allow. You might want to mark this point on the wire, and the depth of the blade into the clamp as well. It is better to be consistent, using your first guess of where the clamp belongs (even if it is theoretically sub-optimal) than to vary the position from sharpening to sharpening.

Begin by using the coarse stone with the honing oil, and grind the bevel to the smallest (flattest) angle you can manage. You'd be well advised to use the optional bench stand. It saves a lot of wrist strain. Right from the start you want to try for a relaxed, even stroking motion. Guide the stone with the thumb and the first two fingers. Think in terms of using a bow on a stringed instrument. You push away from the edge and toward the guide, with a slight downward press and a little forward sweep. The longer the stroke you can control, the more forward (or backward) sweep you can take on each pass. Lift the stone very slightly, bring it back toward the edge of the blade a little closer to the tip than where the first stroke began. Start the second stroke the same way. Repeat until you reach the tip. Now repeat the process working backward toward the guard of the knife. Turn the guide over and repeat on the other side of the knife blade. You want to give each part of the blade the same amount of attention from the stone, the same number of strokes at the same pressure. Eventually you'll be able to judge by

"feel." For now, count the number of strokes. For a 3" blade, use a pattern of 8 strokes forward and 8 strokes back, per side.

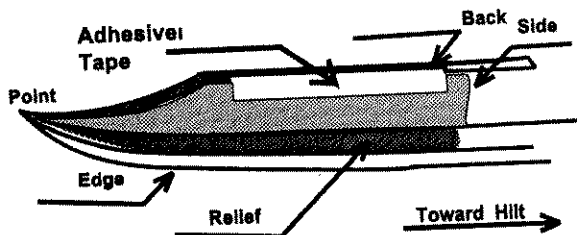
Now for the bad news: When a blade has gotten truly dull, it takes a bit of metal removal to make it sharp again. Most of us skimp on this step. How much metal has to come off? You need to "make a burr" along the entire length of the blade on one side — at least with the coarse stone. This burr shows that the plane of the angle you are grinding has intersected the actual edge of the metal, raising an almost microscopic "wire edge," that is easier to feel than to see.

This reads a lot worse than it is. Once accustomed to the feel of the stone, the whole 16-stroke pattern might occupy thirty seconds. It is important that you not turn the blade until you've created a wire edge. Then, create a second wire edge on the other side.

The process is repeated with the medium and fine stones. My personal preference is to use oil with the coarse and medium stones, but not on the fine stone. I clean that stone with oil once in a while, to prevent clogging.

GRINDING THE RELIEF

When you begin to grind the relief angle, none of the settings of this clamp make a small enough angle to be of much use. My own way out of this is to put a single layer of masking tape along the back edge of the blade.



The relief grind should also be continued on one side until a wire edge can be felt — then the blade can be turned. Personally, I do not try for a wire edge when using the medium and fine hones on the relief. I am rationalizing that the edge formed by relief grinding is going to be ground off itself, anyway. The medium and fine grinding of the relief is (to my mind) simply to prevent rough spots near the blade's edge.

Then set the guide rod in one of the two uppermost slots and grind the edge. It is exactly the same process as before, except that you can use a lighter touch, since you are removing less metal.

That done, there is still a wire edge on the back side of the grind. After the fine stone work, it can be hard to see or

feel this burr with certainty. Personally, I only know that it's there, because the blade still feels dull. However, a few strokes of the strop and ... presto! ... sharp blade.

STROPPING

While grinding is done as if you were cutting the stone with the edge, stropping is done in the opposite direction and with the edge held at nearly a right angle to the strop. A flexible strop almost finds the correct angle by itself; while a rigid strop requires a little more attention and a lighter touch. I like to put a bit of red Jeweler's Rouge on the rough "flesh" side of my strop to give it a bit more "bite." The old-time barber's stropps used a piece of coarse linen cloth for the same purpose — a more aggressive honing/polishing.

After four to six strokes on the strop the blade should have a useful edge, which will stay sharp for some time. This edge can shave body hair almost as well as a straight razor, and cut rope cleanly and easily. With a little care it will remove candle wax from sensitive skin, although personally I prefer a slightly duller blade for that purpose — something not much sharper than a letter opener.

STEELING

Honing is a final polishing step, beyond stropping. It is done with a hard, glass-smooth tool. It is this honing that carries an edge from merely, "sharp enough to shave with," to literally, "sharp as a razor." Simply run your honing tool along the edge of the blade, from tip to hilt, at the same angle as your last grind.

Once an edge has been ground and polished, it is far easier to keep it sharp by periodic "steeling," and an occasional touch of the fine stone, than it is to let the blade become dull and do the whole re-sharpening process again.

Clearly, getting a sharp knife and keeping it sharp involves more than a little effort and expense. Realistically, you can expect to make a few dozen bad edges before you get your first marginally good one. It may be quite some time before you can put an edge on your knife that equals the original factory sharpness, and several years before you can do it without mechanical guides.

As mentioned at the start of this article, there is more than functionalism and practicality involved in learning to put and keep an edge on a piece of steel. Whether you are the top who keeps a knife razor sharp for safety purposes or a bottom who has the honor of maintaining your top's treasured fetish items, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are one of the select few who have the skill and the patience to **KEEP A SHARP BLADE.**

As a person who enjoys doing and seeing good bondage, I thought I would try to explain one aspect of the bondage spectrum.

What is a Spider Web?

A spider web, as the name implies, is an intricate pattern of rope woven around the body of a bottom. It can be done with one long rope generally over 75 feet; several mid-length ropes between 25 and 50 feet, or many short ropes under 25 feet. The web may be symmetrical — that is, a mirror of itself on the right and left sides of the body. (This may also apply to the front and back.) But the web does not have to be symmetrical. I don't like to cut lengths of rope, so I use one 150 foot length of clothes line that I bought in my local toy — I mean hardware — store. As I weave the rope around the bottom's body, I try to be as symmetrical and aesthetically pleasing as possible.

A spider web can be tied in order to make the bottom totally immobile — tying the wrists, upper arms or shoulders, waist, upper legs and ankles, and incorporating a piece of equipment. It can be tied around the bottom, as a decorative addition to any other type of bondage, by the top.

Why would you want tie a Spider Web?

A spider web is certainly not for everyone. It takes a long time to create — somewhere between 30 minutes and an hour. Each web is created as a unique piece of bondage which may not be the same each time. Some bondage tops disdain the spider web as a waste of time. They feel that they can get the same effect as they would with a web by using less time-consuming means, such as a hogtie or a four-point tie. Ask a top why he or she would tie a web and you would get as many different answers as there are tops. One might say it's hot to look at. One might want to immobilize the bottom before the scene takes place or, at the very least, give the illusion of complete restraint. One might want to create an aesthetically pleasing visual effect for others to admire. Another might just want to use a lot of rope on the bottom without any symmetrical pattern. While at my local S/M club, I watched a top create a conical shaped spider web, using more than half a dozen pieces

The Spider Web

by CREE

of rope around her tied bottom, without the rope touching him, except for his wrists. It was a fine example of the decorative web. As for me, I'm lazy. I don't want to cut lengths of rope into smaller pieces, so I use a 150' line. The down side is that the longer the rope, the longer it takes me to create the bondage. The up side is a beautiful picture to behold! Then, and only then, will I start the primary scene.

What about the effect on the bottom?

Certainly the bottom gets turned on by the spider web. Why else would he or she stand still for the amount of time it takes to weave the web? I learned how to make a spider web on a bottom who got more and more excited the more I wove the rope around her body.

Bottoms may also feel that with all that rope they cannot escape — and therefore *must* accept everything that the top does. Bottoms go to scene houses so that Mistress can spend three-quarters of the session time creating the spider web, all the while taking "indecent liberties" with the bottom. After all, in the scene house the bottom is really topping from the bottom (or should I say Master Card and Mistress Visa call the shots).

Where do you tie a Spider Web?

Tie a Spider Web to any piece of vertical or horizontal equipment, or to the bottom alone. Some examples of horizontal equipment are: a bed to which some kind of tying point (i.e. eye bolt, hook, or cleat) is attached, a strong table so you can use the four legs and the table top itself, or other heavy piece of furniture. (I have attached 3-inch boat cleats to the underside edge of my platform bed.) You can even use the floor of a room as long as there are enough points (i.e. furniture legs or bolts in the floor) to tie the rope to. Some examples of vertical equipment are: a door frame to which eye bolts are attached, a standard cross, or a St. Andrew's cross, or bars on a gate. If you are using a piece of equipment you would tie the bottom in a different way than you would if you were tying the bottom alone. Each of these will need some preliminary rope work around the body before you can tie the web. The rope has to be longer — usually in the 100-foot range, since most of the rope is used going to and from the piece of equipment.

How do you tie a Spider Web?

Your rope should be at least 3/16" in diameter. A small or slender person will require roughly 25-35 feet of line, a person of average build takes about 50 ft., a large or stout person might need as much as 75 ft. Double up the rope so that you have 2 even lengths. At the loop end tie a knot about 4 to 8 inches from the loop. Then tie 2 more knots about the same distance apart. You should now have 3 knots leading up to the loop at the end of the rope.

Drape this over the shoulders and down the back; then tie a knot above the chest area, beneath the collarbone. Tie the next knot below the chest, about 2-3 inches under the nipples. This will frame both nipples as the web is woven, and provide an opportunity for breast bondage if the bottom is a woman. A third knot is tied above the pubic area mid-way between the belly button and the pubic hair, with an additional knot above the penis if the bottom is a man, or over the clitoris if the bottom is a woman. You should now have seven gaps between the knots.



Work both lengths of line together, passing them through the same gap in the same direction, as you weave from the front of the body to the back. First, the lines are passed down and back through the crotch, and up between the ass cheeks to the loop which should be hanging to the top of the waist.



Bring both ropes to the front of the body, forward over the hips to the lowest gap, then around to the back of the body to the lowest gap there. This is the foundation for most webs.

You may want to tie the bottom's wrists to the sides of the body as you continue to intertwine the lines up the body.

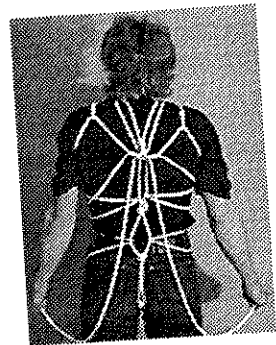
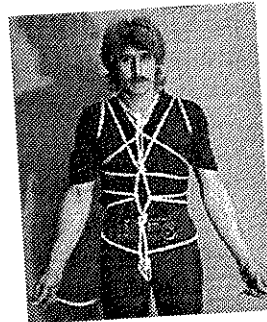
When you reach the chest, you can then start to experiment and to improvise.



As long as you remember to pass both lines through the same gap at

the same time, you can't go too far wrong.. You want to keep your pattern symmetrical and neat and trim, both front and back.

Try making a Spider Web on your partner. You may find a new addition to your list of playthings.



The Cree has been weaving his webs in the NYC scene for several years. He derives his scene and online name from his grandmother's heritage. (He is not the model in these illustrations.)

THE NOOSE

261 W.19th ST.
NYC 10011
212-807-1789
TUE-SAT 11AM-8PM
SUN 1PM-8PM

LATEX
LEATHER
S/M ACCESSORIES
CUSTOM CLOTHING

NOOSE II AT THE LURE

409 W.13TH ST.
NYC 10014
212-807-7297
WED, FRI, SAT NITES
10PM-2AM

CATALOG AVAILABLE
DECEMBER, 1995.
RESERVE YOUR
COPY BY MAIL. \$10

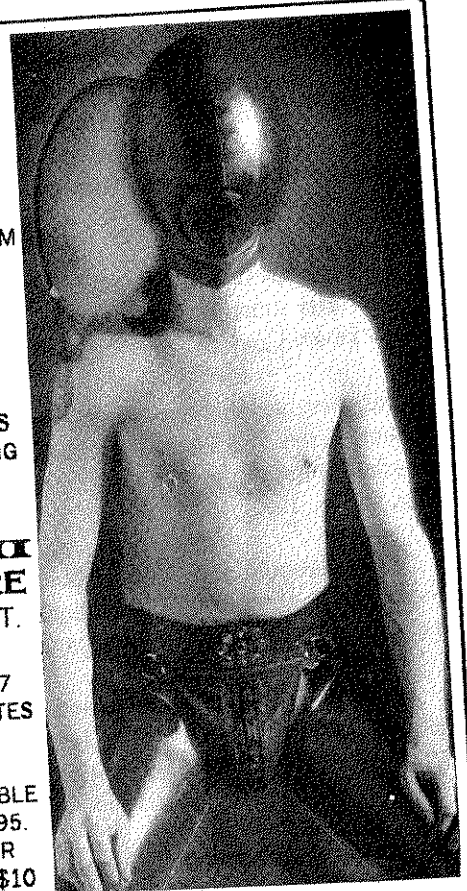


PHOTO: STEVEN LINDNER AD: MERRILL SELDES

Slave Contracts

In Issue #19, Mary Malmros wrote on the subject of *Slave Contracts* — whether to have one in your relationship, how to structure it, etc.. She offered a 10-Point program for your consideration. Her final advice is, "Write Your Own." In this issue, Carolyn and Steve, who are living in a 24/7 relationship also advise the reader to, "get it in writing."

Starting in this issue with the contract of **Leopold von Sacher-Masoch** and **Fanny Pistor**, we will be reprinting slave contracts — with man or woman as dominant or submissive. There are some well-known ones and we will be including a few of them.

We invite you, our readers, to submit yours as well, if you believe it to be appropriate to the subject, along with any explanatory information you believe would be of interest to the rest of us. (How and/or why it came to be; whether it is still valid and in force, etc..) Of course, we reserve the right to comment. In addition to the satisfaction of seeing your work in print, the writers of published contracts will receive a complimentary copy of *The Guardian* in which it appears.

Regarding Slave contracts: there are as many contracts as there are people to enter into them. And, as in much of the rest of SM, *there is no one right way to do a contract*. They can be limited as to time and place, or open-ended; they can be very specific, or very general. They can have a lot of qualifiers and exclusions or none at all.

Sacher-Masoch wrote several Slave Contracts during his lifetime. His most famous one was fictional — the one between Severin and his lady Wanda, the "Venus in Furs."

But, there were others — in the "real" world — with his paramour, Fanny von Pistor-Bogdanoff, and with the woman he married, Aurora Rumelin (who is also called Wanda by him, by her, and by history).

When Leopold and Fanny embarked on their real-life odyssey that formed part of the foundation for his novel, he drew up a contract to govern them on their trip.

A number of points are to be noted in this curious memorandum. It bears all the marks of hasty and colloquial composition, probably scribbled by Leopold in a state of great sexual excitement, at Fanny's dictation.

At the end of their tour of the continent the contract expired and was not renewed. Apparently this was at Fanny's insistence because she did not want to prolong the affair.

Promises in Furs: A Sacher-Masoch Contract

"Herr Leopold von Sacher-Masoch gives his word of honour to Frau Pistor to become her slave and to comply unreservedly for six months with every one of her desires and commands.

"For her part Frau Pistor is not to exact from him the performance of any action contrary to honour, i.e. which would dishonour him as a man or as a citizen. She is also to allow him to devote six hours a day to his professional work and agrees never to read either his correspondence or his literary compositions.

"The Mistress (Fanny Pistor) has the right to punish her Slave (Leopold von Sacher-Masoch) in any way she thinks fit for all errors, carelessness or crimes of lese-majeste on his part.

"In short her subject, Gregor,* must accord his mistress a wholly servile obedience and accept as an exquisite condescension any favourable treatment she may extend to him. He recognises that he has no claim upon her love and he renounces all rights whatsoever to a lover's privileges.

"Fanny Pistor, on her side, promises to wear furs as often as possible, especially when she is in a cruel mood.

"This period of servitude is to be considered at an end after six months and no serious allusion to it will be permitted at the expiration of the period.

"Everything which may have happened must be forgotten. The original love-relationship will then be resumed.

"These six months need not run continuously. They may be interrupted for long periods, which will begin and end whenever the Mistress chooses. This pact is hereby put into force by the signatures of the contracting parties.

Commencing date, 8th December 1869.

(Signed) Fanny Pistor-Bogdanoff

Leopold, Chevalier von Sacher-Masoch"

(* Gregor was a typical name for a manservant in this part of Austria. Fanny had suggested that Sacher-Masoch be called this.)

We live in the no-leisure 90s, when the work week has become longer and longer and finding time for any s/m play gets harder and harder. If you can't even find time for a two-hour quickie, how will you ever find time to live in bondage?

Full Time on Overtime

24/7 Master/Slave Relationships for the 90s

by Steve and Carolyn S.

You may be surprised to learn that in some ways it's easier to find time to live an S/M relationship than it is to find time to create a fantasy scenario. That's because, unlike fantasy scenes in which you transform your real life and make it resemble an impossible world, in full-time relationships you eroticize the everyday (and there's a whole lot of the mundane every day to eroticize in most of our lives.)

Long term S/M is by its nature service-oriented rather than sensation-oriented. In a short scene the focus is on sensation: beating the slave, waxing the slave, teasing, bondage, etc. In long-term, the focus is on obedience, service, and training. The advantage of long-term over short-term is that long-term allows you to do things you can't do in short, segmented scenarios. For example, Master and slave can choose to do body modification, behavior modification and other games that take much longer to play out than disciplining a naughty schoolboy or interrogating a recalcitrant prisoner.

As one would expect, long-term is the exact opposite of short-term. If you try to run long-term the same way you do short-term scenes, it will end catastrophically in under a week — the result of trying to sustain the high intensity of a short play session over the long haul. Long-term should be relaxed and sustainable. It's a marathon, not a sprint. While you'll probably do all the activities you might do in a short-term fantasy scenario, the bulk of your time will be spent in the mundane activities of your regular life.

Contracts, Goals, and Rules

Much has been written on Contracts and will continue to be. We recommend using them. If well-written and planned, they will make the scene more enjoyable and easier on both parties. Under no circumstances should you use off the rack contracts. The process of discussion and negotiation that goes into creating a contract is as important as the finished document. We've found that it's best to specify as much as possible in the contract. Anything that you intend to be a regular feature

of your new relationship should be specified in the contract. If you expect your slave to stand on his head *every* morning and recite the unholy slave mantra, that should be in the contract. If you intend to do this only occasionally, it shouldn't be in the contract, though memorizing the slave mantra could be.

Expect to take a fair amount of time to work on your contract. Two weeks to a month is advised. You want to make sure you've covered everything and that both parties have the same understanding of the document. You might want to schedule negotiation days in advance; that way both parties are well-prepared. Specify start and end points. This is psychologically important. Life is stressful enough as it is. One of the most important basic decisions is how long will you be in "24/7." Lifetime slavery is probably best left in the realm of fantasy. Our assumption is that the 24/7 period will last at least one month, but probably less than a year. It's better to start with shorter periods (a week or two) and work up to longer stretches.

It is impossible to regulate every aspect of food, drink, and bathroom adventures. But you can try. Make sure all situations are covered, and there are provisions for emergencies. You don't want your slave's bladder to explode because you're stuck in traffic and she can't get in touch with you to ask permission to use the bathroom. It is a good idea to include a *proviso* in the contract that says that any situations not covered by the contract and not covered by a later edict of the Master can be decided by the slave. If doing 24/7 with very little time is your concern, this is a good way to streamline life. (And of course if the slave makes the wrong decision, the Master can always initiate a punishment scene.)

Goal Setting

Avoid setting impossible goals. Long term commitments and contracts are fundamentally about goals, but set reasonable goals: a few pounds lost, training or service expectations, the development or improvement of sexual techniques, and so on. Don't commit to turning a ninety-pound weakling into Super-

Jock in two months. And limit the number of goals you choose; one primary goal and a secondary goal are more than enough. Remember, contracts bind both parties. Don't promise more than you can deliver. If the contract specifies that the slave will be beaten every night, then the Master is obligated to do so.

Rules

When we did 24/7 without first establishing rules, the slightest stresses worked to break down the relationship. What rules mean is that even if the Master or slave doesn't want to do what is best for the relationship, they are compelled to. And our relationship improves and deepens because of that. It ensures that both people know where the edges are. With rules, everything is easier. We can devote our energy to pushing limits rather than trying to determine the *minutiae* of daily life: like, what the slave should wear or how the slave should address the Master.

Strange as it may seem, rules not only reinforce the Master-slave relationship; they also add to the slave's freedom. Rules help slaves know what they are required to do and, by extension, what they are *not* required to do.

Pacing

The pace you establish at the beginning of the contract period sets up expectations that the same pace will continue through the contracted time period. It's to your advantage to start at a pace that you can maintain over time. Which means that starting with a high intensity scene is probably the wrong way to go about it.

You'll probably want to start on a weekend to allow Master and slave to adjust to their new roles without the extra stress of work and dealing with people. If the two of you can arrange a three-day weekend, try to start then.

When you first enter 24/7, clear at least some of your commitments from your calendar. You cannot simultaneously work overtime, volunteer at the local soup kitchen, maintain an active social life, work on projects in the local S/M organization, and create a good 24/7 relationship. If you try, you will find that you are getting no sleep and that your relationship is falling apart faster than you can say "over-committed." Add commitments once you have 24/7 running smoothly.

Eroticizing the Everyday

Part of what we get out of 24/7 is the chance to immerse ourselves in S/M so that every activity becomes an S/M activity. To reinforce the S/M character of our relationship even

A daily ritual that reminds Master and slave of their respective roles can stand in for more extensive play periods when time is at a premium.

when we don't have time to do so much as pick up a whip, we use a variety of everyday reminders. These reminders are very important when you find yourself working late every night at the office. Often they are the only reminder of your relationship you will have during those eighty-hour work weeks.

Reminders you can use include: physical reminders like semi-permanent marks (cuttings or temporary tattoos), collars, chastity belts, shaved genitalia, and piercings. In addition, we use clothing as a way of signaling our roles to each other. In our relationship, the slave wears a corset and doesn't wear pants. At various times we've enforced a ban on underwear. We use forms of address while at home (*never* while at work) to remind each other of our roles. In our relationship, the slave always addresses the Master as "Master" or "Sir."

Who Does the Dishes? Chores & the Modern Slave

In fantasy stories, full time Masters and Mistresses do no housework and the primary duty of the slave is to, "offer herself or himself." This works marvelously if you happen to be fabulously wealthy with lots of time on your hands. It doesn't work when both Master and slave work overtime for a not-quite-enough salary. It is imperative that you share the housework. Otherwise, there will be no time for S/M. Remember, the goal is S/M — not unpaid maid service! Still, Masters and Mistresses should choose the least objectionable household tasks for themselves. This helps to reinforce the basic power imbalance we seek in 24/7 relationships.

Ritual

Ritual is important for all S/M, but nowhere more important than in 24/7. And nowhere does it do the kind of double-duty it must as in a 24/7 relationship that is struggling to continue while both Master and slave work overtime at their jobs. A daily ritual that reminds Master and slave of their respective roles can stand in for more extensive play periods when time is at a premium. Some 24/7 couples add a nightly whipping to their schedule. It takes five minutes and reminds both parties of who and what they are. Others require the slave to keep the genitalia clean shaven and smooth. This serves as both a powerful visual reminder and a ritual, since the slave must perform this each day to prevent fuzziness. Another couple we know added the requirement that the slave hand-wash her Mistress's nylon stockings each evening after work.

Among our rituals is the requirement that, at mealtimes the slave serve the Master and then wait until the Master has started eating before serving herself. Every couple develops their

own rituals. Make sure you don't try to incorporate too many at once. You're better off with a few that you know you can do, than many that will interfere with the time you need to devote to work.

Work and S/M

While it is fun to bring S/M into every aspect of your life, there is one area that it is important to leave free of S/M: *your work life*. Yes, it's erotic and hot to remember that you're in an S/M relationship even while at work, but the stress that can result from slipping up at your place of employment and possibly endangering your career will, in the long run, hurt your 24/7 relationship.

Keeping the S/M in 24/7

There are two schools of thought regarding punishment in 24/7. Some people maintain that punishment should never be administered for real problems. So if the slave dents the car, the Master would be prevented from punishing him or her. Others (and we are of *this* school) believe that the entire point of 24/7 is to integrate S/M fully into our lives. As such, it seems ridiculous that the Master can punish the slave for not scrubbing the dishes adequately but *not* for denting the car. It violates our sense of consistency. From the slave's perspective, punishment helps to expiate guilt. That said, if there are serious problems you need to put S/M on hold and deal with them without worrying about punishment or 24/7. Later, once the problems are solved, the slave can be punished if need be.

Punishment vs. Play

Unlike in many fantasy scenes, tops should *not* reward bottoms with hot scenes when they do something wrong. Too much disobedience on the part of the bottom can bring a long-term scene crashing down — and rewarding bottoms for doing that is foolhardy. Instead, the top should punish the bottom with something the bottom does *not* enjoy and doesn't eroticize (cleaning out the refrigerator for example), or at a higher level of intensity than the bottom is likely to enjoy.

Incorporate hot S/M scenes when they're appropriate for mutual pleasure. In our relationship we make a distinction between punishment scenes (which aren't pleasurable for the slave) and S/M play. Remember, the point of long-term is for the lifestyle itself to be erotic; not to create a string of unrelated erotic scenes. Don't allow the bottom to set the pace. Be unpredictable.

Staying on Track

If we were to pick the single most important thing to remember to make 24/7 work while doing overtime, it would be flexibility. Both Master and slave need to work as a team and be ready to *modify their roles instantly* to deal with the exigencies of the moment. If the slave has to work an eighty- or ninety-hour week and it's the slave's duty to do the dishes, it

only makes sense for the Master to take over this for a while. Similarly, when overtime hits the Master, the slave should expect to take on more work and to have less S/M contact with the Master.

Dealing with Stress

If you're working on your 24/7 relationship you're already ahead of most people when it comes to preventing stress. Your relationship provides two important stress relief factors: a warm relationship with another person and a hobby; plus, hot S/M scenes themselves are an excellent form of stress relief. However, it's important to remember that 24/7 creates its own forms of stress. Doms may find that the added responsibility can feel overwhelming. Subs may find the constraints on their lives irritating at times. How you deal with this stress makes the difference between enjoying 24/7 and just going through the motions.

If you find yourself dealing with stress from the 24/7 relationship itself, you may be taking it too seriously. There are very few things you can totally mess up in life that can't be fixed. If the responsibility is getting overwhelming, go out with some non-S/M friends and relax. It helps to be around people who don't know that you are the omnipotent Master.

Continued on page 34

GOOD VIBRATIONS

Vibrators, dildos, lubes, massage oils, feathers, restraints, harnesses, anal toys, art books, informational books, videos, condoms, dental dams, latex gloves, safe sex info, porn & smut... Catalogs cost \$5, (applied to first order).



GOOD VIBRATIONS
938 Howard Street, Dept. #SG
San Francisco CA 94103

Adventures in Nine Point: How to Handle the Personal Ad Odyssey

Part Two

by the Ad-Viser

As we rejoin our intrepid adventurers, they have just finished *Part One* of this article, (Issue 19) outlining how to pick a suitable advertising venue and how to be clever and welcome in the narrow columns of the personal ad pages. Now, we continue along the journey, this time examining the feat of answering other people's ads. It's not as easy as you think.

I'm In Love With C-247

So maybe you're not suited to placing an ad yourself. Or maybe you've tried, and it just didn't seem to work very well. Maybe you don't have the cash to plunk down for an ad. But in any case, you have decided to cruise the ads and see if your perfect partner lurks within.

The same principles for location, location, location, that you'd use to place an ad (see last issue), still work when you've decided to answer ads. The only difference is that you are now concerned with the demographics of the ad placers instead of the potential readers. Don't imagine that they're one and the same. Remember — unless you are reading a lesbian magazine, the majority of all sexually oriented magazine readers are men. And in the case of lesbian magazines, you will still find a certain number of male readers, some of whom actually answer the ads. Just a hint for the man who wants to do that? Don't. Believe me, if she wanted a guy, she'd say so. That goes just as much for the women who might be tempted to answer ads in gay magazines. People advertising in a gender- or orientation-specific forum are doing so for a reason — they want their responders to be of a certain gender or orientation. (Duh!)

When picking which venue you're going to cruise the ads in, think of who else is reading along with you. Apart from the obvious, like gender and orientation, is the venue better suited for younger or older people? Does it have a closed membership, or is it open to all? And remember also, that any magazine you wouldn't be caught dead reading is probably not a good place for you to respond to ads. People place ads in areas they trust, looking for readers who share their

interests. If the very thought of bowling makes you physically ill, "Bowling Bondage Buddies" magazine, no matter how many ads they have, is probably not the place to scan for your Pervert Prince/Princess. Just as ad placers don't want to waste time advertising where they are not welcome, an ad reader should target the personals which will be more likely to cough up some good leads.

In any medium, be sure to know what the abbreviations mean. "S" has stood for single, swinger, and straight — and such a mix up can be sure to cause problems later on. (See the side bar on page 20 for some samples of abbreviations and acronyms.) Many venues will have a handy guide to abbreviations along with their personals columns. If they don't, consider calling, writing, or e-mailing the managers of the area and asking them to print one. (By the way — Usenet newsgroups in the *alt.sex* hierarchy are unmoderated and have no official rules. Some of them have unofficial, "by popular demand via the posting of several regulars," guidelines. (Be here for *Pervs in Cyberspace*, coming in Issue 21 for even

more details about where to find everything and everyone on the Internet!)

Reading Between the Lines

When reading the ads, take what they say and consider it carefully. When people have to be brief or are exposing their dreams and needs and fantasies to the world, they often say more than they might have intended. When you get beyond the X wants Y nature of the ad, what is the underlying feel you get from it? Is it humorous? Heartfelt? Sincere? Cryptic? Was the person bitter when writing it? (e.g.: I'm tired of all the phonies... ads.) Clues like these can give you an idea of whether you really want to respond, and how to go about framing the response. Examine how the ad balances in terms of who they are vs. what they want. Let yourself go and use your instincts — if something sounds good, circle it, mark it, save it, and then move on for a while. If it still sounds good the second time you read it, respond!

Continued on page 18

Gentle Dom sks Rough Sub	D/S	Lady sks Retainer
Bondage Pals seeking 4th for bridge	Wildman sks subduing	Family sks New Kid
Pup needs training	L-Dyke seeks LTR	S/M SWM sks female for nasty stuff
Boy needs Dad	SEX!	Evil Mom sks stepchild for abuse...
Cpl seeks housepet...		

3 FOR \$24.50

ALL DESIGNS ARE AVAILABLE ON WHITE OR BLACK COLORED T-SHIRTS AND COME IN SIZES MEDIUM, LARGE, X-LARGE AND 2X-LARGE. PLEASE SPECIFY PREFERENCE WHEN ORDERING.

[illegible]

TOTAL

EROTIKA BLEU CREATIONS
545 EIGHTH AVENUE, STE 401
DEPT: UT-01
NEW YORK, NY 10018

To Whom It May Concern...

Responding differs according to how and where the ad was placed. Although the media may change, the principles for what to put in your response remain the same.

Print only

You read the ad in print and need (or want) to reply in writing. First, get a typewriter or other legibility-enhancing device. Really. Unless you have a beautiful, copperplate handwriting or can print so that you look older than fourteen, legibility will be a major concern. Some people still ask for handwritten letters, especially tops who want to make a point. But the main reason for wanting a handwritten note is to determine that you're not getting a form letter from someone who is just answering all the ads that sound like they might be from a man, or a woman, or a top, or whatever. To avoid the form letter look, use good stationery, with a spot of color or a patterned background. Quote from the original ad. And be sure to sign it with a good pen. If you don't want to reveal your real address, rent a post office box for your personal ad correspondence.

Salute your ad placer. Remember what *they* wanted in their ad, as opposed to what you'd like from them. For every person who likes being called by a title like Master or Goddess, there are three who would find it offensive to be so hailed by someone they don't know. If replying to a bottom/submissive, don't start in with, "Attention lowly slave..." — unless they asked to be called so in their ad. This is your first impression — there will be plenty of time for embellishments later on, if you get a response. Be conservative, and use mundane titles which would be acceptable in any business letter, (Miss, Sir, etc.) or address your response to the Box or ad number. Or, use the ad itself to find a salutation. For example, "Kirk seeks Spock for going where no man has gone before," leads quite naturally to, "Dear Captain..." with practically no chance of offense.

Next, introduce your reason for writing — their ad! Mention where you saw it. If you want to compliment them on it, go ahead. Then, introduce yourself, *as you relate to their ad*.

For example:

Dear Sir:

I read your ad in *Bowling Bondage Buddies* magazine, issue #9. You mentioned that you were looking for someone to carry

your balls every Tuesday night. Well, I am not in your league yet, but if you give me a chance, I might just be up your alley...

Your first contact is not a time to engage in graphic descriptions of what you'd like to do with the object of your admiration — unless the advertiser specifically *invited* you to send such a thing. And, although women are especially likely to toss out any letter referring to, "throbbing cocks," and "glistening cunts," such prose can turn a guy off, too. Save your porn for later in the relationship. Or send it out to a struggling porn magazine. They need fresh blood.

Keep your letter short and sweet, but be sure to describe yourself and your interests, and ask any questions you feel are necessary. Remember that you shouldn't be out to overwhelm, but to impress. Include any aspect of yourself which matches their search criteria, and mention a thing or two which will serve to round you out a little more. Mention anything that is important to you, but be light handed. For example:

In addition to bondage & bowling, I have an interest in scuba diving, and go to Key West every year to frolic in the waters. I am very serious about healthy eating, but I have been known to slip a little red meat into the stir-fry from time to time...

Then, you might want to add something about what you are looking for, especially if the advertiser was a little vague about what he or she wanted:

My goal is to find a top-ranked amateur bowler, the kind of person who will just zap through my life like a 12-pound ball through a 7-10 split. I've done the rented shoes thing — now I'm ready for my own custom pair. Perhaps you could be the one to help me pick them out?

Of course, brevity can be overdone. I've actually seen dozens of responses to personal ads that looked like this:

Dear XXX -

I read your ad, and you sound like fun. I'm a S**, age 30. If interested, call me.

If interested?? Interested in *what*?? We know nothing about this person, except for relationship status, age, and gender. What should the original advertiser do now? Re-send the ad? Don't be lazy — this is where *you* get the center stage. If you don't wow your audience, they'll take a bathroom break, with your letter accompanying them for more practical purposes.

Check your spelling. Really. Take that dictionary down and use it. If you're really a wonderful person, you'll enclose a self-addressed envelope for their response. If you're a saint, you'll put a stamp on it.

If the advertiser has asked for a photo and you've decided to send one, write **CLEARLY** on the back,

"This photo is not released for publication."

Write it in **BIG** letters, so it can't be covered with a sticker. You may also want to put your name and a contact address or phone number on it. Why? Because some people actually use the photos they get from other people as enticements in other personals columns. Really! The best way to protect yourself is to not send photos at all (and absolutely not revealing photos), or tell your new friend that they'll just have to take a look at you in person. A special note to gentlemen answering ads placed by ladies — we have enough pictures of phalluses. Really! Please save yours for your holiday greeting cards.

Be sure to include an address to write back to you, and a phone number, if you'd like them to call. These days, e-mail addresses are also very popular. If you have strong discretionary guidelines, say so. Oh yes — don't use the envelopes

with the nude sketches on them, or the Tom of Finland rubber stamp decorations. Until you know someone, you can't know just how closeted they might be.

Phone ads

Write your response before you call.

I'll say it again.

Write your response before you call!

Nothing sounds dumber than someone meandering through a one-sided conversation in a telephone message. This does not leave a good impression:

"Um, hi. This is Kim — I mean, um, this is in response to your ad? I really liked it. I mean, I m calling you, right? Um, I m, uh. . . I'm what you're looking for, I think. . ."

So, sit down and write it out. If you know that you only have a limited amount of time, then read it out loud and time yourself. Be sure to include your name, where you live, and how to contact you. But don't skimp on details — there's nothing more frustrating than getting a response that sounds like a wrong number on your answering machine. Don't put on so much attitude that when the person calls you back,

PLEASURABLE PIERCINGS, INC. BODY JEWELRY

In Surgical Steel, Niobium, 14K Yellow and White Gold

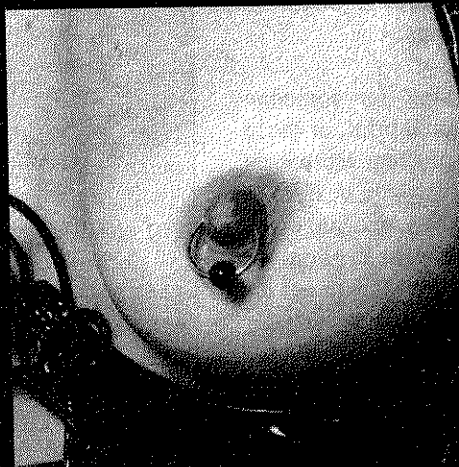
**Nipple, Nostril,
Navel Piercing
Kits also available**

to obtain our catalog
send \$5 - U.S. funds

**Wholesale Inquiries
Welcome**

**Visa
Mastercard**

photo: C. Goll



**Nipple
Piercing
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**Instructional & Educational
\$44.95 including shipping**

**Reasonable Prices
Fast Service**

**American Express
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Come Visit Our Retail Store at

Pleasurable Piercings, Inc. 417 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne NJ 07506 • 201-238-0305 • FAX 201-238-9564

they won't recognize your voice. Again, make sure you've given enough information and a tantalizing look at why you might be, "the one," *before* you dial the number to leave your message.

Online ads

When responding to an online ad, do not respond in the group, echo, folder, or other public space where you saw the ad. Responses belong in e-mail, unless the advertiser has included a phone number or street address. (It's rare, but it does happen.)

The same principles for answering an ad in print apply online — be pointed but not curt, and show your creative and polite side. And just because you can save the same response and use it over and over again doesn't mean that you should. Having a personal description macro is probably a good idea. But sending the same message to every ad you find interesting will only get you in trouble. A lot of people online share their experiences with one another, and responses to personal ads are frequently passed around. You should not want to be known as a "one-trick-pony."

In the current atmosphere of government-induced panic about pornography on the Internet, now is *not* the best time to be sending out naked GIF's of yourself, especially if they are unsolicited. If you're doing a long-distance relationship with someone, get a nice, clothed picture to scan, and send that. You don't want to send up as Exhibit A in a Porn Online trial in Nowhere, USA. And again — *do not* send any graphic descriptions of sex or sex acts to anyone without their consent. If someone takes offense, a complaint to your system administrator can have your access terminated.

Signing Off

Lastly, when you are on your adventures through the personals, keep in mind two important things:

One — everyone is out there looking for someone special. If you look at those columns of small print, or those screens of message after message, each of them represents someone just like you. Show the respect you'd like to receive and avoid getting entangled in nasty exchanges or hate mail. If someone turns out not to be right for you, be polite and say so. Don't leave them hanging. If you get an inappropriate response or solicitation, toss it away or take action with someone in authority, but don't get personally involved. Your place is that of seeker, not guardian.

And two — don't give up. It may not work the first or second or fifth time. But we never step into the same river twice. There are new people out there every day, reading and advertising and posting.

Certainly, there's someone for you!

Know the Code!

Here are some common (and uncommon) abbreviations and acronyms used in the personals. Be conservative in using them yourself. Terms used especially in cyberspace are marked with an +.

+ASB	usually: alt.sex.bondage, sometimes: alt.sex.bestiality
+ASS	alt.sex.spanking, stories or services. Or, an insult. Read it in context.
+ASF*	alt.sex.fetish.(whatever)
+ASFD	alt.sex.femdom
B&D	Bondage and Discipline
BBW	Big, Beautiful Woman
+BDSM	B&D & D&S & S&M
BF	Boyfriend
CBT, or C&BT	Cock & Ball Torture
CPL	Couple
D&S or D/s	Dominance & Submission
F2F	Face to face, ie: meeting in person, OR female to female
FTA	Fun/Travel/Adventure - turns up in personal ads, as in SWM seeks SWF for FTA
GF	Girlfriend
+GIF	Graphics Interchange Format - a digitized picture format so you can look at someone on your computer. Also: JPEG, TIFF, and many others
HWP	Height/Weight Proportionate
ISO	In Search Of
LDR	Long Distance Relationship
LTR	Long Term Relationship
MOTAS/OS/SS	Member of the Appropriate Sex/ Opposite Sex/ Same sex
PDA	Public Display of Affection
S**	Single (some race/color/ethnicity) (gender), as in Single Black Female (SBF) Other combinations add religion, i.e.: SWJM = Single, white, Jewish male.
Use these carefully - "SAM seeks terrific top" could mean that there's a single, Asian Male out there, or a:	
SAM	Smart Ass Masochist
SM or S&M	Sadism & Masochism; sadomasochism; sometimes Sexual Magick
SMK/n-smk	Smoker/non-smoker
SNAG	Sensitive, New Age Guy
SO	Significant Other
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TG	Transgendered
TS	Transsexual
TV	Transvestite
UB2	You be, too, as in "Big, brawny and hairy - UB2"
V/A	Verbal Abuse



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Photo: Alex D.

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Art Of Fetish, Fashion and Fantasy

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These Things Suck!

(And isn't that nice?)

by Adam Selene

It should come as no surprise that both men and women like to have their nipples played with. Suction devices create an immediate sensation, while temporarily enlarging and sensitizing the nipples.

Safety concerns are nominal. Leaving suckers in place for a long time can cause bruising (hickeys) and in some cases, blistering. Users might also want to be aware that these toys will draw a surprising amount of blood from the smallest shaving cut or break in the skin. The actual amount is trivial, a teaspoonful or less, but the aesthetic impact can be considerable, especially when unexpected.

Less formidable than clips and clamps, suction devices can also be used as attachment points to the nipples, indeed to any patch of smooth or shaved skin on the body. Many of these items work on the head of the penis in much the same way as on nipples, while at the same time keeping the ejaculate off floors, walls and ceilings. Some men find that the suction increases the feeling of an orgasm.

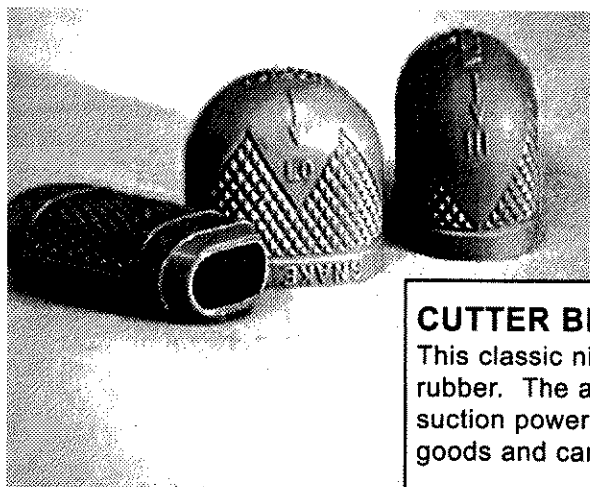
Squeeze Toys

This first group of suckers is based on the camper's "Snake Bite Kit." The air is squeezed out of a soft cup to create a partial vacuum. The seal between sucker and skin may be improved by

wetting the skin, or by putting a small amount of liquid inside the sucker. The effect can also be increased by renewing the vacuum by squeezing the cup from time to time without removing it. This will tend to draw the skin more deeply into the device, forming a tighter grip and a more intense sensation.

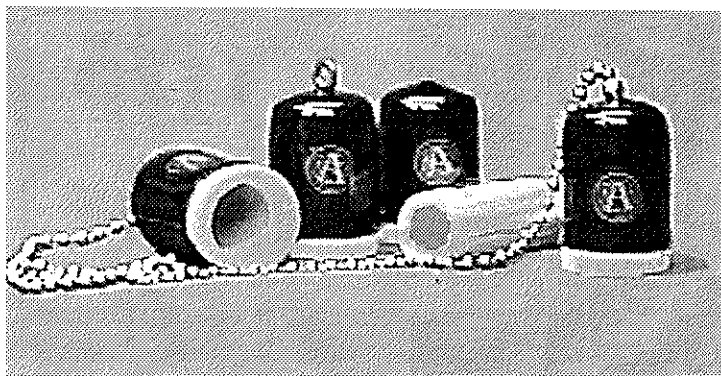
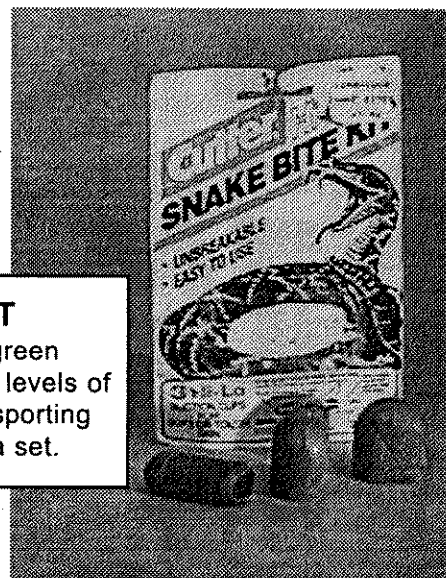
Other variations on that theme include suction toys in larger sizes, breast pumps made for nursing women, and even glue syringes made for hobbyists.

Here's hoping you find what sucks best for you!



CUTTER BRAND SNAKE BITE KIT

This classic nipple toy is made of Khaki green rubber. The asymmetrical design gives two levels of suction power -- both fairly mild. Sold in sporting goods and camping stores for about \$14 a set.



SUCKERFISH

Probably the most powerful squeeze-operated cups of their size. Provided in black (\$10/pr), with attachment rings (\$15/pr) or with attachment chains (\$20/pr). The small Yellow Suckerfish (\$6/pr) are shaped and sized for labial and clitoral use. From Adam and Gillian's Sensual Whips and Toys.



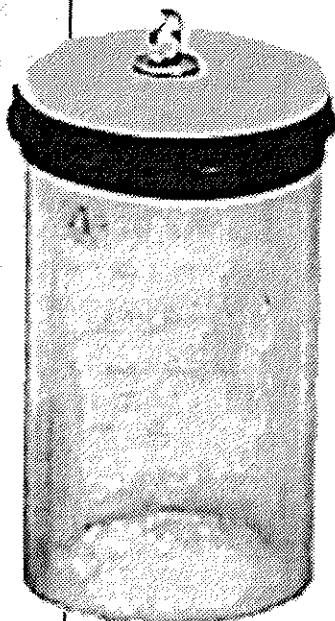
The EXTRACTOR™

is the most powerful hand powered suction device on the market today. Push the plunger and a clear plastic cups of different sizes attach to the body with real authority. Pull the plunger for instant release. \$10-12 at camping and sporting goods stores.

Note: This is a superior venom extractor. In addition to its value as a first response to a poisonous snake's bite, it offers considerable relief from mosquito and spider bites, bee and wasp stings, and can be used to remove live ticks. A must-have item for knapsack or toybag.

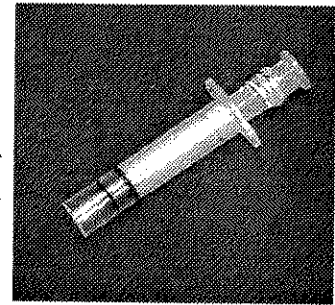
Whale of a Sucker

Three inches in diameter and 6" high this giant can easily engulf an entire "B"-Cup. Equipped with an attachment ring for leashes or weights, it has power to spare. Can be partially filled with liquid for greater weight and a better seal. They are in the catalog of Adam & Gillian's Sensual Whips and Toys, \$45./pr.



Glue Syringes

Slight modifications transform these glue applicators to powerful suction toys. Cut off the end and develop suction by withdrawing the plunger. The plunger's action may be stiff enough to maintain pressure, or you might wind a few rubberbands around it to hold it in position.



Or, remove the plunger, attach vinyl tubing to the tip and use the syringe barrel to make ingenious assemblies with vinyl tubes, valves, clamps and plastic fittings from the pet store, hardware store or scientific and laboratory supply store.

Glue syringes are sold by better woodworker's supply outlets, costing \$1-3. ea.

continued on page 31

S&M Training Weekend



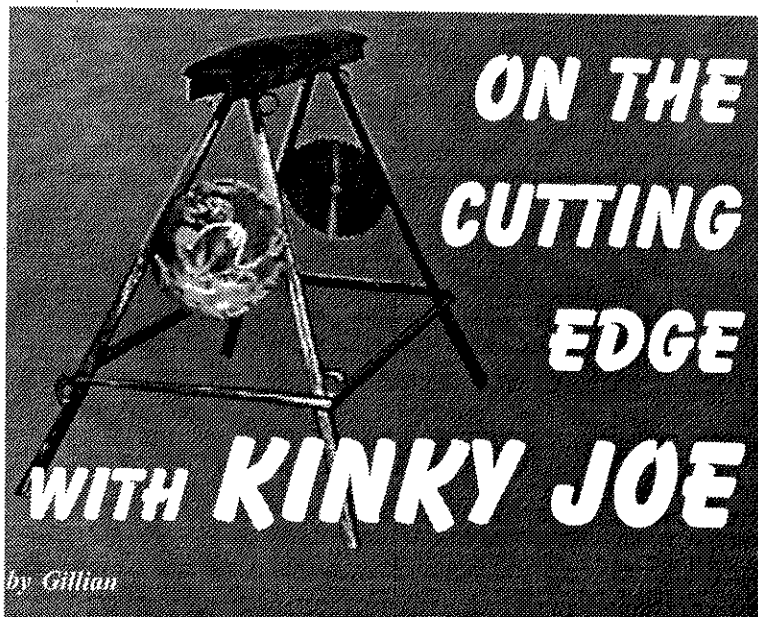
A 3 Day, 2 night session in Palm Springs for those serious about Leather and S&M.

Specialized Training for Tops and bottoms by guest experts.

Limited to 8 participants per session in barracks style accommodations.

Partners & Singles accepted. \$365

BUTCHMANN'S
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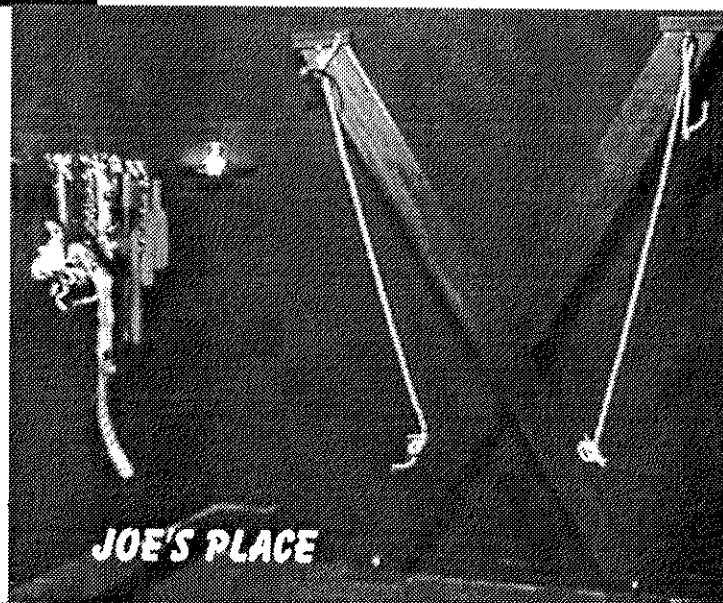
The Bend-Over chair (below, left) is an unusual piece. The top is adjustable on one end, so you can vary the angle. The kneeling platform is also adjustable for the leg length of the spankee. Together these controls make this one of most useful and versatile spanking benches we have seen. Done in solid maple with black vinyl upholstery, it would be a welcome addition to any dungeon. The Bend-Over is \$275 plus shipping charges.

Unusual in other ways is his metal spanking "saw-horse" with an upholstered top (above, left). Made of heavy steel with a wide-angle stance, it

Kinky Joe first came to our attention when he brought a few selections from his catalog of erotic furniture to Paddles, an SM club in New York.

Joe calls himself, "a pioneer in the concept of ergonomic erotica and the King of Sexual furniture." He enjoys the challenge of custom-building "any design you can think of."

He has several original items that you won't see anywhere else. On a recent visit to his studio, we found two pieces to add to *The Guardian's* "spanking bench hall of fame" collection.

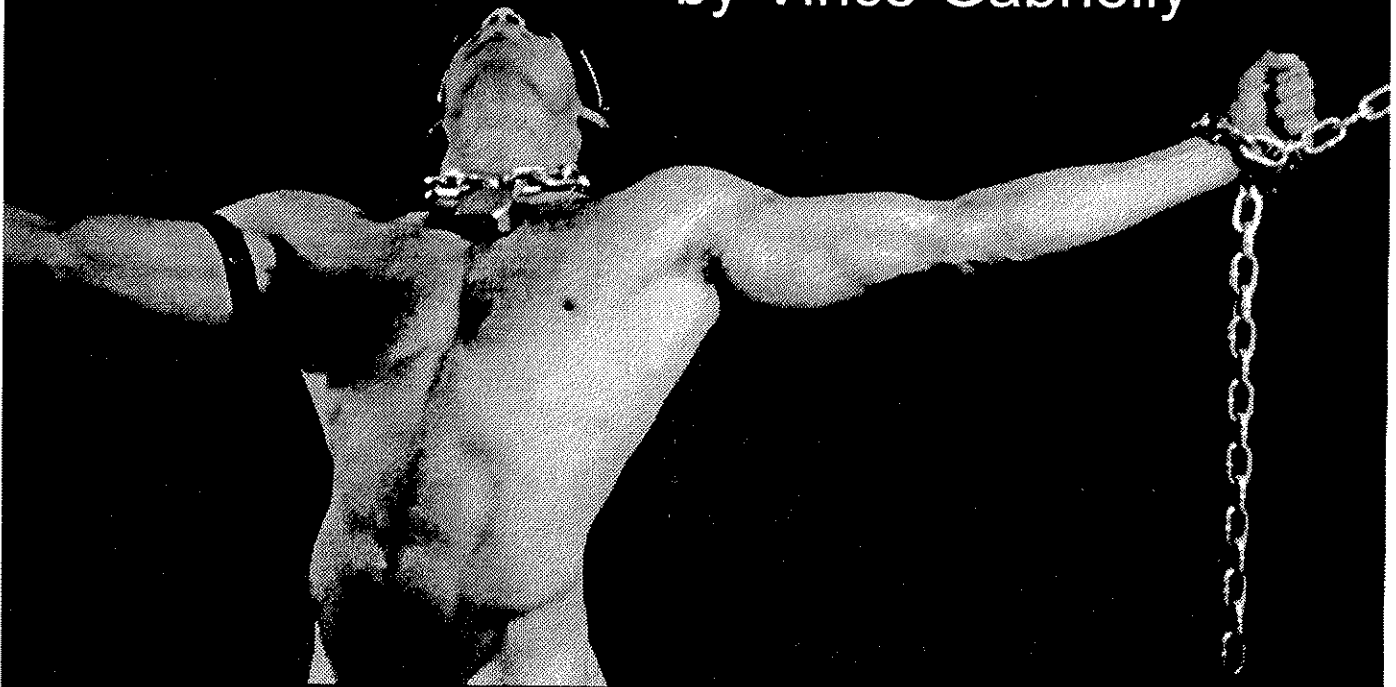


is exceptionally steady on its feet. The sides are braced, and adorned, with two circular saw blades (complete with teeth!) and the frame has rings at the corners for attachment points. The Saw-Horse is \$300 plus shipping.

By the way, one room in his Brooklyn loft-studio is outfitted as a mini-dungeon, so you can "try before you buy," or perhaps have some private time for you and a companion. Ask him.

For more information or for a copy of his full color catalog, call him at 1-800-70-KINKY. And, be sure to tell him you saw him in *The Guardian*.

Men's Bodies
A Study in Contrasts
by Vince Gabrielly



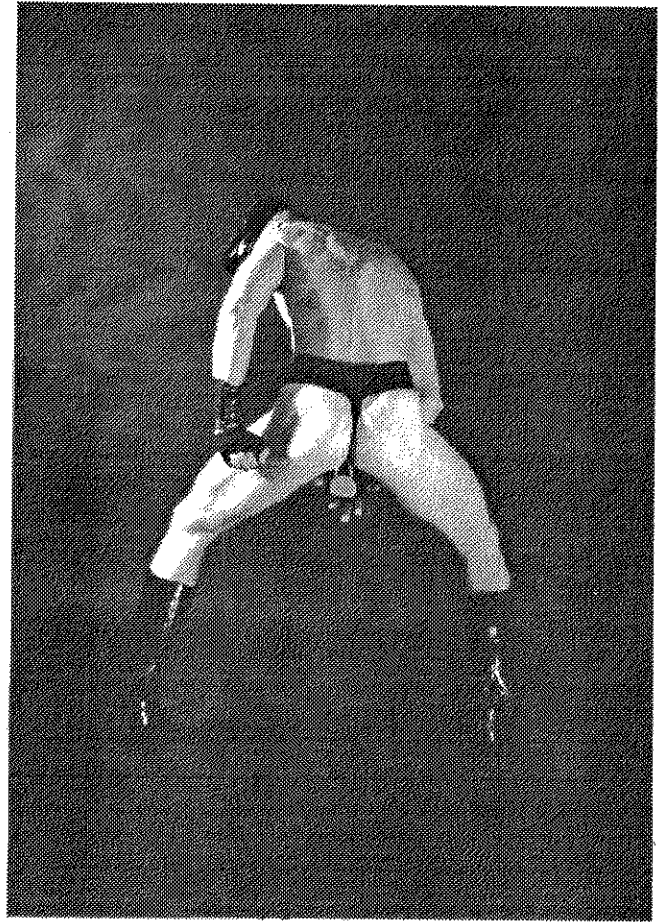
My creative process began only 2 years ago when I shot my first roll of black and white film with a camera my lover had left me.

*Many years ago T.C. was prompting me to learn photography. He was a master printer and saw my talent and wanted to bring me out.
I wasn't interested.*

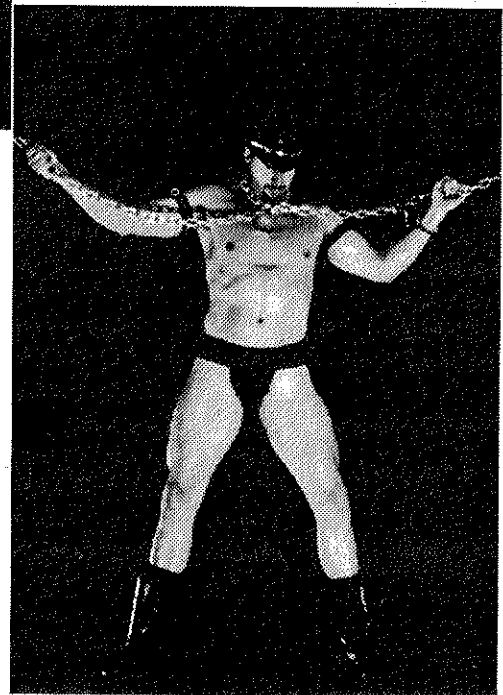
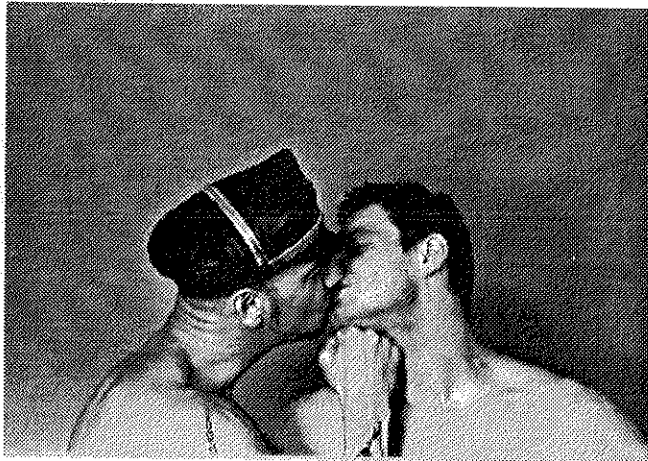
After his death in 1992, I wanted to honor his creative life in some powerful way. I thought by using his camera I could continue to create for him.

*What actually occurred was something very different.
I realized the process was actually a hidden talent and was all about me.*

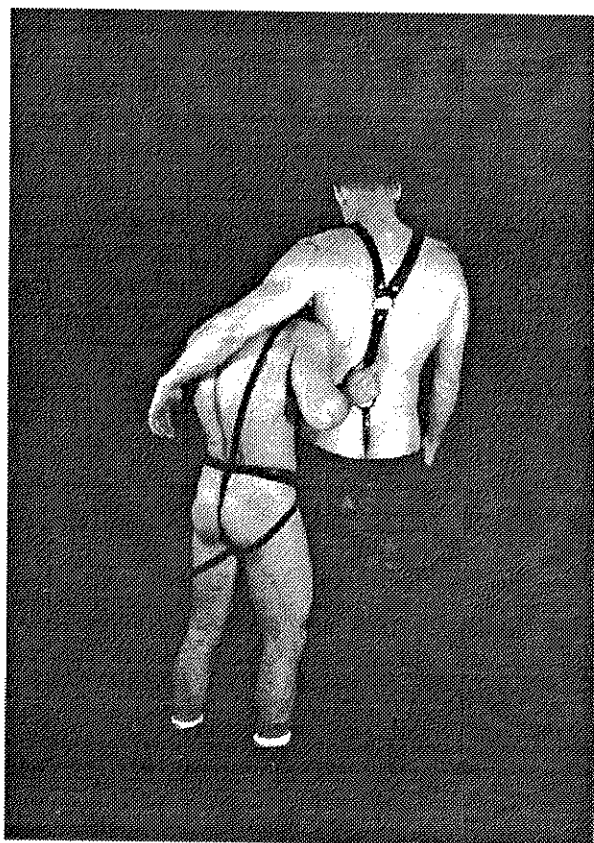
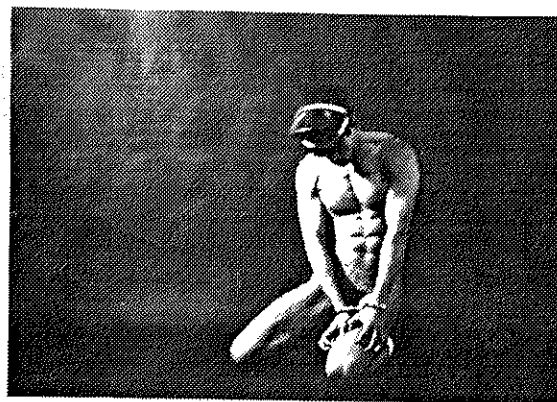
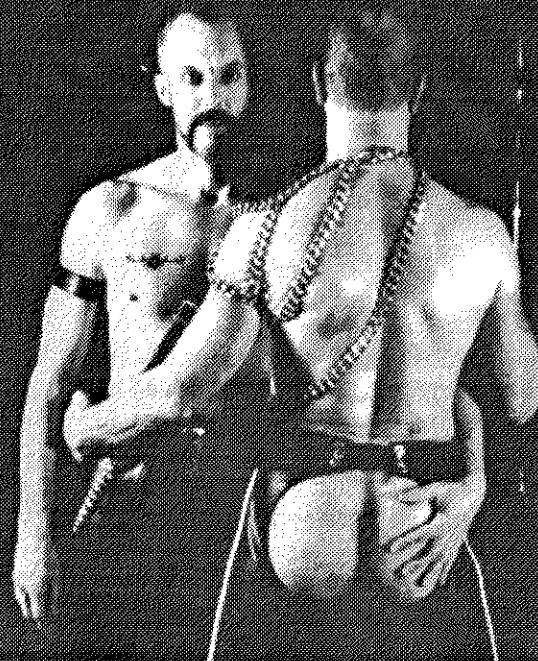
What T.C. had seen was there.



So I began to develop my craft — shooting literally hundreds upon hundreds of rolls of film, perfecting the process as I went along. The darkroom experience was similar — practice and more practice.



I love my photo images
of men because I feel what
I capture is the sensual
mystery, the actual
essence of who they really
are. The fantasy brings
the true personality to the
surface.



We are pleased to have found Vince Gabrielly and to introduce his work to you, our readers. We like his "eye." These, and other images in Vince's portfolio are available as matted and/or framed prints and as greeting cards. You can also contact him for commission portraiture. Call or write:

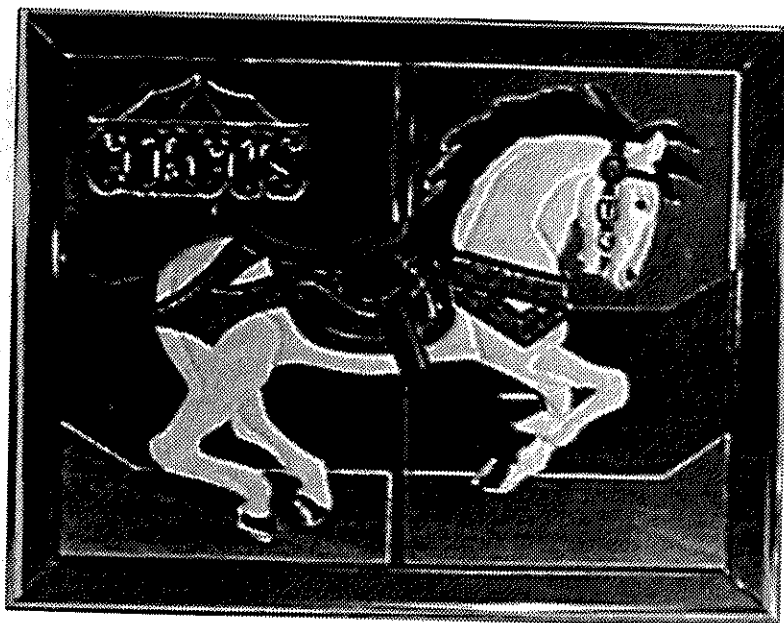
**Vince Gabrielly Photography, Inc., 143 West
29th St., #1204, NY, NY 10001
(212) 244-1634**

LEATHER — ART — GALLERY

by Gerrie Blum

Anyone who has an appreciation of leather will fall in love with the pictures created by Andrew at the **Leather Art Gallery** in Amarillo, Texas.

Florals, desert scenes, cowboy motifs; realistic, stylistic or abstract — no matter what the subject, Andrew can create it in various tones and textures of leather that can be breathtaking. He works in pastels, bold primary colors and warm earth tones — even black and white! — in grain leathers, metallics and suedes. The result is a form of "touch art" — the framed landscapes, portraits and still-lives call out to be gently caressed.



"Every piece of leather art is conceived in the Leather Art studio, where it is individually color coordinated, made, signed and framed by hand," according to Andrew. Each leather art work is an original one-of-a-kind, and includes a certified original document — signed and dated.

And, if you don't see what you want — ask for it. He is pleased to do special works "on commission" and will create a work of leather art from your photograph or illustration after consultation. (Keep in mind that Andrew is a lover of leather but not a leatherlover, if you get my drift.)

He has been at his art since 1977, taking the first six years to perfect the leather art process. He makes an annual trip to New York (which is how we met him) to display his work at a leather trade show and collect specimens of unusual and unique leathers from the tanneries that also attend. Most of his pictures have over one hundred hours of creativity invested in them with some having more than fifty colors and more than twenty-five different textures.

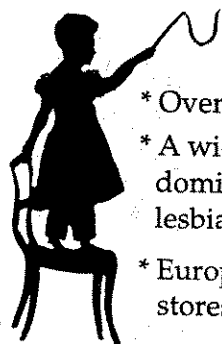
All this artistry and creativity does not come cheap! Be prepared to spend several hundred to almost two thousand dollars for the pictures he has in his gallery, and perhaps more for an original leather work from your art.

We did and are delighted with our purchase!

Leather Art Gallery
P.O. Box 3901
Amarillo, TX 79116
(806) 373-5399

...and tell them you saw it in *The Guardian!*

WHERE CAN YOU BUY OVER 500 SM BOOKS & MAGAZINES?



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The Trainer. Fantasy of Gord Magazine.



WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?

Because
He already has
his reservation
for

The 5th Annual S & M NEWS POCONO SPRING FLING '96

SPECIAL OFFER:
Mention the
Guardian
and take
10% off

It's that time of year again, and for this year's Fling we have rented an **ENTIRE POCONO'S RESORT HOTEL** for the weekend! **Total privacy** in the main rooms, dance rooms, hallways, dungeons, hot tubs, tennis courts and all outdoors on the **54 private acres of Hotel grounds**. All 150 expected attendees will stay at the party hotel.

Add to that the incredible food of our own Chef Jason and the award-winning cuisine of the hotel chef; a hotel staff that *knows* about the kind of party we are having; *and even more toys and equipment*. And, since this is a licensed resort, there is a cash bar, with DJ and dance floor which will be open *only* to Fling attendees.

Don't miss this non-stop, full-out, *wild* Fetish-filled weekend!

April 19-21, 1996

Food, soft drinks, lodging are **ALL INCLUDED** in our low **LOW** weekend rates. Space is limited, so make your reservations **NOW!**

Don't be fooled by wannabe imitations. This is the **original Pocono Spring Fling** now celebrating our **5th successful year**, bigger and better than ever. Our parties are the talk of the SM scene, so don't miss out. Make your reservation **TODAY!**

(A **\$50.00 deposit** will hold your place until March 15th 1996)

Call or write today: **The S&M News, P.O.Box 727, Pocono Summit, PA 18346. (800) 326-9431**

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Silly
Games!
No
Fashion
Shows!!
No
Dinners
and
Speakers!
Just a full
weekend
of non-
stop
PLAY!!

Enclosed is my ☐ \$50.00 deposit ☐ Full Payment. Please reserve a place at the:

5th Annual S&M NEWS SPRING FLING-April 19-21, 1996

for a ☐ Couple (\$475.00) ☐ Single Woman (\$175.00) ☐ Single Man (\$400.00)

(Reservations for single men accepted subject to availability and confirmation.)

Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover Acct# _____

Exp.Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Scene Orientation _____

**10% Discount
Code: ADAM**

\$mart Shopper

Does L.L. Bean sell S/M gear?

Well, yes — if you would consider a mini canoe paddle an SM toy.

This discovery was made during the Harbormasters' Annual Run in Portland, Maine.

Long and slender in shape; made of hardwood and nicely sanded and finished with a shiny, varnished surface, the 24" Mini-Paddle is a real bargain at \$7.00 plus \$4.50 for shipping.

You need to place your order by calling Bean in Maine, because it is a "store" item and not in their catalog. The **SMart Shopper** advises that you buy more than one, because it might break if "overdriven" — i.e. used harder than the wood can take, (which, in a way, is not necessarily a drawback).

The World's Premier B&D, SM,
and Fetish Computer BBS
(908)739-1755
Telnet/FTP/WWW/palace.com

Where Fantasy Beckons...

**The
English
Palace**

...and Dreams Become Reality

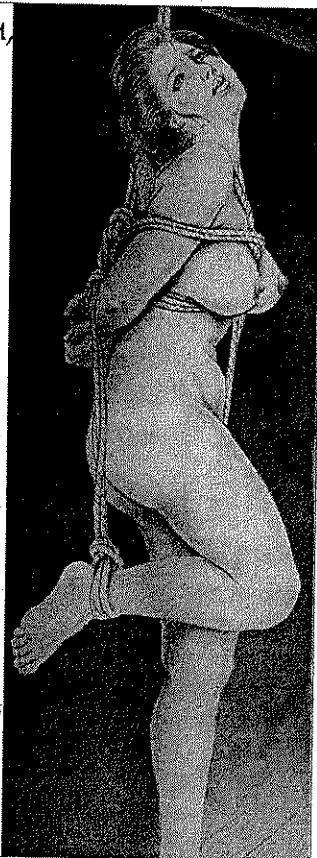
No Time Limits! Stay On-line
as long as you'd like

Meet members in person at monthly parties

Best women to men ratio in the Kinkdom

Giant library of the hottest erotica

All lifestyles and orientations are
respected and welcomed



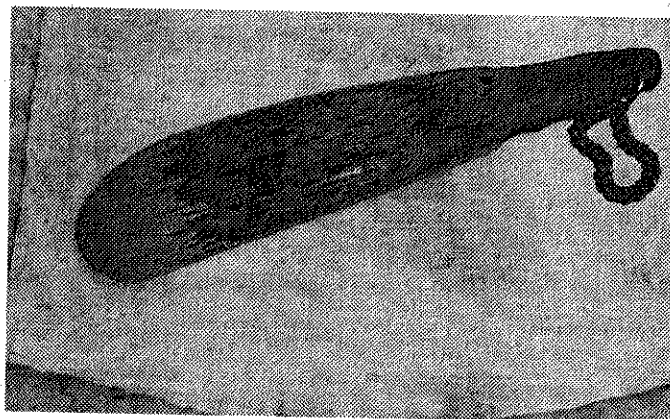
At the price, it makes a cool party gift, so why not get several? The shipping charge stays the same.

L.L. Bean can be reached by phone at (800) 221-4221 and they do take credit cards. The stock number is 5-8219-7-00-000. If you want to write to them, it is: L.L. Bean, Freeport, ME 04033-0001 (no street address necessary — looks like they ARE the town!)

But do you really love paddles?

If Maine has the newest camping tool as SM toy, New York City has the newest example of SM toy as art.

The photographer whose work graces this issue's centerfold, Vince Gabrielly, is also a talented woodworker. In addition to furniture restoration, he is now making custom wood paddles. Using exotic hardwoods, these hand-crafted SM toys come in unusual shapes with finely sanded, highly polished or painted surfaces.



Because each one is tailored to the user, you can design your own hand grip or attachment, such as the chain shown here. Prices range from \$65 to \$150, plus shipping. Call or write for details. Vince Gabrielly, 143 West 29th St.#1204, NY NY 10001. (212) 244-1634.

These Things Suck,

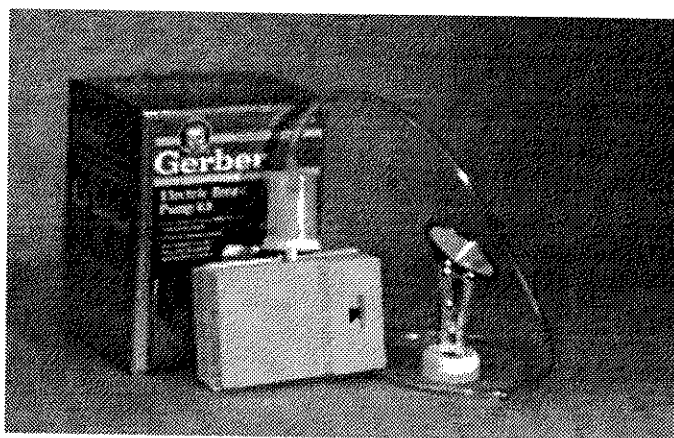
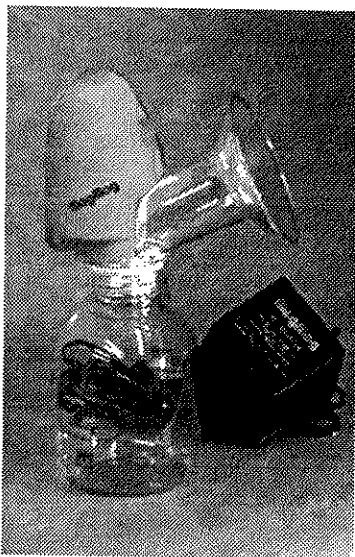
continued from page 23

Breast Pumps

Designed as nursing aids, these devices feature anatomically shaped inlets and a slow, gentle buildup of suction power. Engineered for daily use, they are well made and durable. They produce a fairly weak suction, which might be the choice for highly sensitive users.



The MAG MAG is a small, light, compact, and very low power unit operating on 2 AA batteries, which does not gain power when run on the AC transformer. The vibration of the built in vacuum pump may be pleasant to some people. In the \$50-60 range, it is probably best left to its intended purpose.



The GERBER electric breast pump is somewhat more powerful than the MAG MAG, but still not impressive, and not in the same league as the hand-operated devices. However, the separate AC powered vacuum pump appears robust enough for use in build-yourself tit-suckers and penis pumps. Retailing for \$35 or less, this is a hardware bargain.



Nipple Training *A Vignette*

by Captain Latex

Dear Bernie,

I have the thought that it is past the time when we should begin the training of your nipples. They should be of much better size, so as to lend themselves much more readily to manipulation or even (from the right person) torture. I have included two sets of suction cups. One small and one large. You should use either set to start. For the very best results, you will then use both sets alternately.

1. First, exhaust as much air as possible from the cup.
2. A lubricant seal of some kind should be used in order to achieve the necessary vacuum. Any product that achieves this goal will do, from baby oil on. My personal experience leads me to suggest that an added pleasure is achieved with the use of any salve containing mint or menthol.
3. A finger-tip-size dab of the chosen lube should be rubbed across the opening of the cup while the inside air is expelled.
4. The cup should now be centered on the nipple and pressed on very closely, held firmly and the squeezing pressure released. If all of your maneuvers have been correct, the vacuum within the cup should now have been replaced by the soft flesh of your nipple. The suction will now hold the cup in place.

Remember, no matter how tempted you are to hurry along the results, do not overdo! Don't rush it. Relax and enjoy the process. You shall love the results.

Yours in rubber

Captain Latex

by Frere Tomas

Rough out opening with Forstner bit
final shaping with drum sander

Tools Required:

Drill Press, with 2 1/8" Forstner bit, drum sanding attachment, 13/32" and 1/2" brad point wood bits and #8 pilot hole bit.

Band Saw or Saber Saw with wood cutting blade.

Table Saw, 10" minimum, with smooth ripping blade, fence and featherboard attachments.

Router with 1/2" rounding-over bit.

Flush-cutting hand saw.

Belt or Orbital Sander with selection of fine-grit paper 000 and 0000 steel wool
assorted bar- and c- clamps

A hardwood supplier can mill the 8" by 36" by 1 1/2" blank for you. A less expensive alternative is to glue up two pieces of 3/4" stock, available off the shelf at most lumberyards. Select pieces with no bowing or warping, an easy task with hard maple.

Glue-up and Layout:

Find the better looking side of each piece. These will be the outer sides. To glue up the pieces, apply a thin, even coating of woodworkers glue to one of the "inside" surfaces. Carefully align the inner faces together. Don't fret about glue seeping out of the edges; it sands off easily when dried. Clamp the pieces together exerting firm, even pressure over the entire surface. A good way to do this is to pile books on top of this "wood sandwich" for the 24 hours needed to cure the glue.

Lay out the holes and openings as shown in Figure 1. Remember: "Measure twice, cut once. . ." The screw holes indicated by the letter B may be omitted if a solid piece of wood is used, rather than the glued-up piece. The screws are to reinforce the wood at critical stress points and prevent delamination during fabrication and hard use.

Using a 1/2" brad-point or spade bit, drill the 10 screw holes to a depth of 1/2". Drive each 3/4" sheetrock screw flush with the bottom of each hole (blunting the end of each screw will help prevent splitting the wood). Apply a thin, even coating of wood glue to the sides of each hole and lightly tap a 1/2" tapered plug into place. When the glue has dried, cut these plugs off flush with the stocks surface. A flush-cutting saw, with no "set" to its teeth is preferred for this operation, not marring the stocks surface with teeth marks. (Save the teeth marks for your Significant Other.)

Cutting Out:

Place the stocks blank on a piece of scrap wood about 3/4" thick (to protect the drill bits and give a clean exit hole on the bottom of the piece). Clamp the stocks firmly to the drill press table. Using the 2 1/8" Forstner bit (a special drill bit that makes smooth, flat sided holes), bore out the outer sections of

continued on page 47

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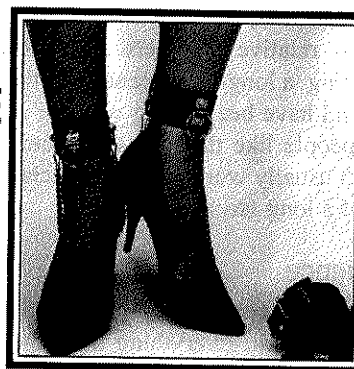
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TOYS FOR THE CURIOUS-MINDED

Full Time on Overtime, continued from page 15

Being around non-S/M friends can help slaves as well. After all, they don't see you as a perennial servant. Remember, this is the ride you signed on for. Irritation is part of the picture but it's something that eventually goes away. Respect it for what it is — part of the game.

One additional thing that may help if you're having problems with 24/7: switch roles for a day. The slave can get out his or her frustrations on the body of the Master and the Master can perhaps remember the delicious delights of being a helpless slave. Potentially, both Master and slave will emerge refreshed from the switch.

Forms of Communication

By now, everyone has heard that good relationships include good communication and that communication is very important in BDSM. That's true, of course; but ensuring that you have good communication in your relationship can be more difficult than that statement implies. That's why it's important to create deliberate channels of communication. Specify situations in which the slave *must* inform the Master and make it part of the contract. Some couples go so far as to make a certain hour each week devoted to honest discussion between Master and slave. We feel it is important that this sort of communication occur all the time, especially when both parties are working a lot of hours a week. Therefore, both Master and slave keep each other informed of their schedules, emotions, and perspectives on the ongoing 24/7 relationship. It's kept in an S/M framework by emphasizing that it must be done respectfully.

Safe Words

If you normally use safe words, you should probably continue to do so, but safe words are best used to ease play between relative strangers. Our assumption is that you're attempting a long-term scenario with someone you know very well, and have been living with for some time. In our experience, people like this use safe words seldom, if at all. Plain English usually works better, especially for the complex problems of a long-term scenario.

Obedience

In short-term fantasy play, a variety of submissive reactions will work. Everything from the "unwilling submissive" taken by force, to the innocent little thing being slowly enlightened to the hot, willing, obedient slave. In 24/7 only one of these approaches works: obedience. The reason is time. Educating the innocent or forcing the "unwilling" takes time and time is something we don't have much of if we're also working sixty to eighty hours a week. Now this doesn't mean that some slave training doesn't occur. It does, but it works much better when the Master knows he can devote his time to teaching and correcting for inadvertent mistakes rather than watching for rebellion.

Avoiding Pitfalls: When You Know Overtime is Coming

Obviously you can't always predict when you'll have to do overtime but often you can. When you know that either the slave or the Master is about to enter a period of overtime, prepare for it. Agree on what steps you're going to take to handle the increased workload. Redistribute workloads ahead of time. Reschedule planned play sessions. Agree to let some housework slip. You don't have to have a spotless home. Simplify your life. Plan to eat frozen dinners or hot dogs or macaroni and cheese for a week. For those truly crazy times, pick up paper plates.

It is important to make sure the overworking person stays sane during this period. The non-overworking person should make sure the person is fed and is limiting the amount of unreasonable hours. After working several 18 hour days, most people become a bit crazy. That's why it's important that the non-overworking Master or slave take charge of the other's health. This is not the time to incorporate strict punishment into the relationship or to purposely disobey in hopes of punishment. When people have had little sleep they get unpredictable. Wait until after this work cycle slows down to bring the S/M back in. This doesn't mean that the established rituals should slip, however. The rituals are the secret tool you have to keep functioning in 24/7 even while the rest of your life is spinning out of control.

After a period of heavy overtime, take time to recover before going with guns blazing back into the full 24/7 regimen. It is critical to get enough sleep to replace the sleep you've missed while working. Both people need to be scrupulously honest about how they feel. Don't head back into heavy S/M while still in the work-recovery phase.

Dealing With Exhaustion and Illness

If you are working long hours, make plans ahead of time on how to deal with sickness because you will probably eventually get sick. Decide what decisions the slave will take on while the Master is sick and what duties the Master will take while the slave is sick.

Do it on Your Own Before Taking it On the Road

One of the most surprising things to us was how *unsupportive*, and even hostile, many members of our local SM community were to our lifestyle relationship. Some were vehemently opposed to any attempt at a lifestyle relationship. Others felt threatened or forced to compete and may have reacted defensively. Still others were fascinated by the new relationship and bombarded both of us with an endless stream of questions.

You should not be entering a lifestyle relationship to demonstrate the seriousness of your commitment to S/M.

demonstrate the seriousness of your commitment to S/M. Likewise you must be sensitive to the feelings of others. All these factors will place tremendous pressure on your new relationship. So, limit the number of people who know about it until both of you are comfortable and then be very careful as to whom you inform. Don't tell people you know will react negatively, until you already have a support network in place.

How and When to End

How you end is as important as how you begin a 24/7 period. We've found that it's best to end on a planned date with happy memories and expectations for future long-term play, than to drag it out long past what you can manage and have it fall apart.

After being intimately involved in someone else's life as a top, you'll probably want to restore a certain distance between you and your former slave. Conversely, as a bottom, you may find that you've temporarily lost your ability to make your own decisions and you may want to continue in your role.

On the other hand, the newly found privacy and freedom gives you an appreciation for the things that most people don't have. As in short-term S/M scenes, bottoms need to be hugged and comforted afterwards. After that, however, it's important that tops be able to take time to be alone.

Re-establish private space and private zones. Be aware that arguments are a distinct possibility at this stage since both of you are re-establishing an egalitarian relationship. Be prepared for them and don't fight dirty once you're involved in them. Avoid bringing problems encountered in 24/7 into these arguments.

Instead, agree to debrief these issues when you are both calm. Don't schedule only one debriefing

session. Realize that you will need to debrief over an extended period of time. Don't jump back into 24/7 immediately.

Analyze what worked and what didn't; modify any contracts to fit your experience, and take a break from your roles. Once you've relaxed, debriefed, and negotiated, you're ready to try it again.

(Steve and Carolyn first tried 24/7 ten years ago, violating almost every rule in this article. It was a disaster. They continued trying, and now live full time as Master and slave.)

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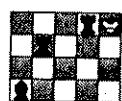
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Eroticizing Boredom

An Open Letter to Ignored Slaves

By Carolyn S.

I sit obediently before a half-open window, naked, watching the rain beating against the glass and feeling the chilly water splatter across my skin. I am wet everywhere. My cheeks still bear the track of tears and the damp between my legs bears mute testimony to my hunger for sensation. The last time my master touched me with either whip or flesh was three days ago. He is sitting across the room from me staring at his computer screen. I am bored literally to tears.

Unlike short intense scenes, boredom is a constant challenge for slaves in long term relationships. After all, it is simply not possible to play all the time, sometimes Masters (and slaves) have to do other things. Eroticizing cooking and grooming is a piece of cake. Eroticizing housework is only slightly more difficult. For me, the biggest challenge in eroticizing the everyday is eroticizing boredom.

Today's world is one of constant stimulation. If we're bored, we simply turn on the television or head for the mall. We're not used to being trapped in our own minds with only our thoughts for entertainment. But those thoughts are sufficient if you know how to use them.

Begin by accepting the fact that you're bored. In its own way boredom, quietly and patiently borne, is as much a gift of submission as pain bravely endured. With that thought firmly in mind, explore the outer edges of this gift to your Master. How does it feel? Is it a desperate frenzied boredom or the sad, relaxed version? Does it come bundled with loneliness? How do you look when you're bored? Is it attractive? Can you change from one type of boredom to another?

Try it.

Once you know the dimensions of this particular bout of boredom, you can explore ways to eroticize it. For most of us, mentally leaving the place we find boring is the easiest way to escape the boredom.

To do this, simply fantasize about all the deliciously terrible things your Master will do to you, eventually. Or lift a fantasy from your favorite book or movie. Really observe it in all the details. Are the fantasy cuffs lined in red? Are they sewn with small or large stitches? Can you hear the chains? Feel the chill of them against your skin? This does work to make the time spin faster and as you do more of it, you can maintain an active fantasy longer.

However, I find that the end result is not as beneficial as the following method which I call the Zen of boredom.

To do this, open yourself to your boredom. Feel it permeating your entire body. If it is the frenzied variety, feel your body shudder with the emotions flooding it. If it is relaxed, feel your body slump into it. Wallow in it. Remind yourself that this pain too is from your Master's hand. Push all other thoughts out of your mind and concentrate only on these two things: your boredom and the fact that it is also a form of submission, a variety of pain. Let the stillness creep into your soul. Other extraneous thoughts that enter your mind should be allowed to enter and leave without taking any of your attention away from these two facts. Surrender to your boredom. As you surrender, remind yourself that you are surrendering to your Master as well. Turn that over in your mind. Feel your surrender between your legs.

Eventually, your Master will call to you or touch you. Allow yourself to feel the joy of that and contrast the tumultuous happiness of it with the discipline of surrender to boredom.

I prefer the second method of the two I've outlined here. I find that when I fantasize, it adds to my frustration later if nothing S/M-oriented happens that night. When I practice the Zen of boredom, I feel refreshed and erotically charged after it ends.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Some Women, edited by Laura Antoniou, published by Masquerade Books, with an in-depth introduction by Pat Califia, is the one book everyone interested in women's SM perspectives must read.

I have been aware of S&M, B&D and the fetish world in a vague way since I was four, and in a definite way since nine (found my first book).

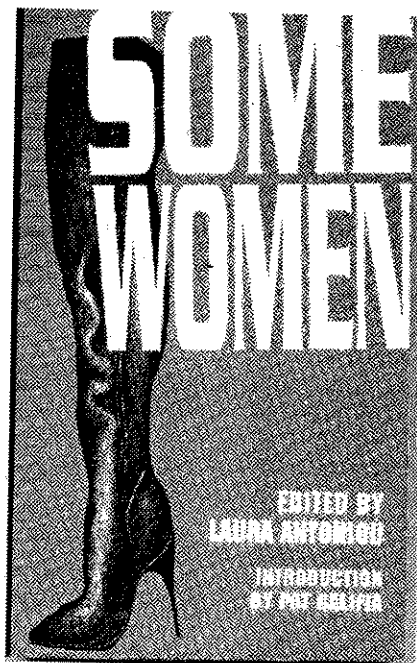
Once I realized there was a reality behind my vague fantasies, I began the hunt for historical accuracy. To the library I went, searching for anything: De Sade, *The Story of O*, descriptions of torture, all to no avail.

There was barely anything findable, let alone readable. A paragraph here, a sentence there. Generally in a man's voice, a man's vision — except for Pauline Reage's "O" and she was a submissive. I'm not.

Times have changed. You can find SM erotica written by women at your local book store should you have an enlightened one near you, or order it through the mail if necessary.

Laura Antoniou (of "Sara Adamson" and *The Marketplace* fame) edited the *Leatherwomen* books and created a new genre — anthologies of SM fantasies written for and by women — a truly exciting development in our literary options, and a chance for women to speak out on their fantasies and dreams.

Now there is an even more important book available — hotter than any fantasy because it's all about SM reality and the women who live it.



Some Women is forty-one essays by women in all aspects of the scene. What makes this book so unusual is, I truly believe, that never before in recorded literary history/herstory has there been an anthology like this — women writing for women about their lives in S&M.

This book may make all the difference for our younger sisters and brothers (because this is a powerful book for men too) coming out in the scene, or just beginning to contemplate it, because they will be able to read our words, honor our newly emerging history and learn through our mistakes. Having read these stories, they can follow the path much more confidently than those of us who always suspected we were the only one on it. I was lucky enough to be approached by Laura to contribute and deeply honored to join

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Tight Hug Toys

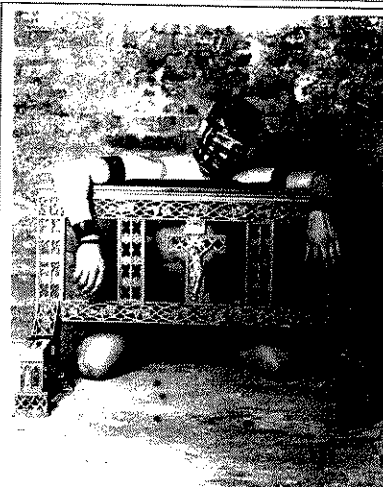
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COUNTDOWN ON SPANNER

On December 14, 1995 the Law Commission in England issued recommendations for updating the law on consent and offences against a person.

Countdown on Spanner responded with a press release:

SM RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WELCOMES LAW COMMISSION REPORT

"We are thrilled to bits that the Law Commission recognises that 'adult people should generally be entitled to make choices for themselves.'

"We are delighted that the Law Commission agree with Countdown on Spanner that consent is all important. It's the same freely given consent which distinguishes an act of love from rape.

"In the Spanner case (Brown) the men's consent was declared irrelevant by a judge who thought he had public opinion on his side. The Law Commission has conducted a widespread consultation and discovered that most people regard the prosecution as an invasion of privacy.

"The Law Commission proposes that in general it should not be a criminal offence to injure a person who:

1. is a capable adult
2. has given full and informed consent
3. suffers no permanent injury

"This means that the Law Commission have recommended that SM sex should be legal; under their recommendations the Spanner men could never have been prosecuted. This also undermines the UK Government's case at the European Commission on Human Rights.

"Since the Spanner raids in 1987, the Government has not dared prosecute anyone else for SM sex, perhaps because this would be deeply unpopular with the public and would trigger a massive campaign of civil disobedience led by Countdown on Spanner.

"The proposed law reform would go a long way toward legalising SM in the UK; however the proposals are unlikely to be heeded by the government, especially in the current political climate and in the light of the split opinions of the European Commissioners as also revealed this week.

"The European case is proceeding, with a probable court date in late '96. The Spanner Trust is now formally constituted."

For more information

e-mail: spanner@honour.demon.co.uk

or Regular mail: Countdown on Spanner c/o Central Station
37 Wharfedale Road, London N1 9SE, England UK

Spanner and the European Court of Human Rights: What does this mean?

by Stephen

The Spanner case will be appearing before the European Court of Human Rights. However, few people know much about the court in question, and what a positive ruling from the court would or would not do.

The European Court of Human Rights was established by the European Treaty on Human Rights, and is managed by the Council of Europe. The Court is not connected to the European Economic Community, which has its own judicial body: the European Court of Justice. The Council is a separate intergovernmental authority.

In 1950, the Court established the right of individuals to petition the European Commission for Human Rights to hear grievances against a nation that was a signatory to the Treaty. Not all signatories agreed to be subject to this procedure, but for those who did (such as England) the Commission will hear the petition and make a judgement as to the merits of the case with regard to the terms of the Treaty. After that it will try and mediate the case between the individual and the nation involved. If persuasion fails, the Commission forwards the case onto the Court for adjudication.

The Court then decides whether or not to hear the case. If it does, it will make a formal judgement. Often, the Court will abide by the decision recommended by the Commission. Even then, if it decides in favor of the petitioners, the Court has no tangible enforcement powers. Though some national courts will apply a Court of Human Rights decision as part of the Treaty, most nations require enabling legislation of their own. The Court does not have any power to fine or expel a nation for non-compliance with a decision.

Book Review, continued from page 37

the ranks of such women as Pat Califia, Mistress Mir, Gerrie Blum (also known as Gillian) and Viola Johnson, in sharing a bit of my life.

The book is divided into thematic sections, each headed by a thoughtful essay by the editor. In *Doin' It*, women discuss how they actually practice SM, from perspectives as wide as "fantasized about it, but haven't done it yet," to full-time Mistress/slave relationships. In a wonderful section on *SM and Feminism*, Cecilia Tan and Julie Pinney take on the anti-SM feminists while strongly defending their own feminist identities.

Other sections include *Working for a Living*, in which women describe various professions attached to the SM community, and *Politics, Public & Personal*. The section on *Roles and Identities* is a fascinating look at some of the ways women see themselves when they get ready to play. There

is also a groundbreaking section on SM and Abuse, which includes some very powerful stories of personal courage.

It would be hard not to recognize some of the names in this collection. Here are stories and essays by Diane Vera, Loraine Hutchins, Marie Eytcheson, Nancy Miller, Fish, Tammy Jo Eckhart, Robin Sweeney, Amy Marie Meek, and many more! But some of the jewels of the anthology are by the unknown or anonymous women who have so many important things to say, even though they are not in some media spotlight.

There has never been a book like *Some Women*. It will open your eyes and let you know about the many sides of women and our community.

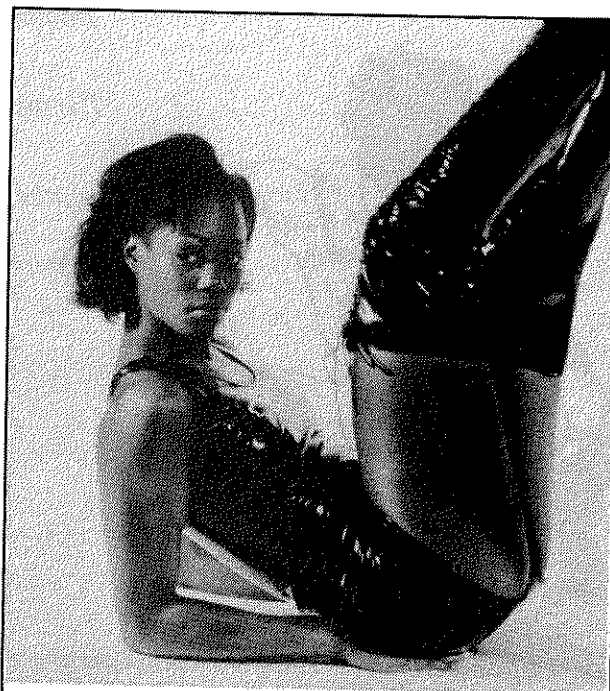
Guest Reviewer Stephanie Locke is a professional dominatrix, living in southern California, but travelling throughout the United States and Europe.

Spanner and the Court, continued

On the other hand, the Court is very prestigious in Europe, and in international matters, that can be more effective than enforcement powers. In fact, the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights historically have had a high compliance rate. If the Court ruled in favor of a given complainant, then the Council of Ministers would likely put pressure on the individual

state to change the laws or practices in question.

The Spanner petition was submitted to the Commission, and the Commission found that the men's privacy rights were *not* violated by the British Government's actions. Nonetheless, the case was forwarded to the Court. The Court has agreed to rule on the petition, and that ruling is expected in 1996.



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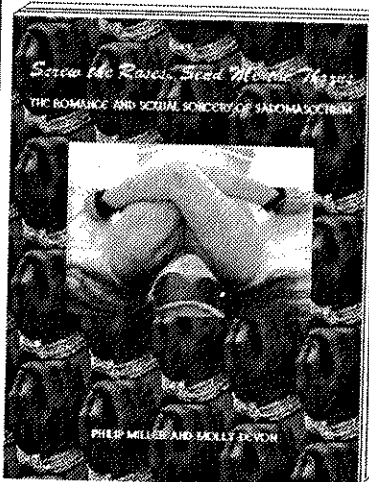
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Photographs of face-sitting are fairly common in SM magazines and newspapers.

The act is sometimes found in videos. But in my fairly extensive collection of SM materials, lovingly gathered for around thirty years, I find that almost nothing has been written on this topic..

in the form of bath and shower gel, body cream, and powder work particularly well with a face-sit. No doubt naked facesitting has its devotees. But I have found that a helmet for the slave — particularly latex, due to its smoothness — enhances the pleasure for top and bottom alike. Panties are also excellent. Not lace, of course, unless the slave wants to walk around for the next week explaining his chafed face to friends and coworkers. The thicker fabrics actually work better, especially the so-called “control” panties. Short skirts trap the top’s scent and enhance the bottom’s feeling of being smothered.

A carpeted floor is probably the best place for facesitting. If you become enchanted with the practice, you may wish to purchase a piece of furniture for the dungeon. Those narrow padded benches sometimes found in bedroom groups fill the bill nicely. Wherever the face-sit is done, it is probably best to elevate the slave’s head by placing a small pillow under it.

Since the goal is that the mistress achieve orgasm while sapping the slave’s strength, I shouldn’t be too prescriptive about technique.

Whatever turns her on! Still, I have some helpful hints. There is the fundamental matter of how the mistress places herself. Should she face the head of the slave or turn in the other direction, facing his body? Both positions have virtues, but I suspect that most couples will wind up with the top facing the head of the bottom. And what to do with the slave’s arms, which seem to be in the mistress’s way? Should she sit on his chest and shoulders? Probably not: sitting on the face is burden enough — and such a powerful burden that it should not be alleviated by a lesser and distracting burden. If the slave is on the floor, it is best that the mistress straddle him, keeping his arms pinned to his sides. If he is on a narrow bench, his arms will naturally fall toward the floor, alleviating the problem.

As the mistress hovers over the slave, as her odors press in on him, triggering the appetite to serve, she may ask him to beg to be sat on. Begging is always fun in SM practices, and is especially intense in face-sitting, since the act is inherently infantilizing for the slave: an engulfment in the very cunt of his mistress, something like an SM birth. The psychological

As I will discuss it, face-sitting is a practice associated with the top female/bottom male relationship. In such a context, it can become an act of considerable importance — a form of discipline every bit as complex and satisfying as whipping.

First of all, it allows the mistress to achieve orgasm. At the end of a long, wonderful session of cock and ball torture, nipple torment, and whipping, I often feel as if I have taken

far more than I have given. Yes, there is the gift of my suffering, my courage, my obedience. But it seems to me a structural problem in SM practices that the top tends to do all the work and the bottom take all the pleasure. Few mistresses are going to have an orgasm while arranging complicated nipple clamping or imaginatively binding the male genitals. Face-sitting helps to redress this imbalance at the heart of sado-masochism. When done properly and thoroughly, the mistress will have her end-pleasure and the slave will be exhausted and enfeebled, robbed of his strength, almost as if he himself had gone to orgasm. Face-sitting seems to me as close as one can come, in SM foreplay, to a mutual orgasm.

It also combines readily with certain fetishes. Scent, for example: the scent of a woman. Perfume is not ordinarily considered a fetish. But the scent worn by a dominant woman can trigger in her slave a mood of global submission, an almost oceanic simplicity of worship. It is her “aura,” as it were, the embodiment of her power. Perfumes which are also available

The Glorious Art Face ^{of} Sitting

by Slave W

intensity — we're talking about breathing, about life, about the womb — can produce choice begging, which can in turn help to remove whatever latent shame might prevent the mistress from fully entering into the forthcoming scene.

And then she is down on him, in his face, sitting pretty. He is probably commanded to lick at an agreed upon pace and stiffness — the mistress must customize the slave's tongue. She may grind on his face, or she may gradually release her full weight on the slave in a series of increasingly "heavier" sits. Part of the art here is her control over the breathing of the slave. Longer sits, and sits on the right places, will partially smother the slave. Coming down on him yet again before he has "gotten his breath" will eventually produce the orgasm-like exhaustion mentioned above.

It might be helpful to think of there being three erogeous zones on the face of the slave. The first is the chin and neck. When the mistress is rubbing her clitoris on the chin, the slave will probably be able to breathe. The second is the mouth; a heavy sit on the mouth makes it almost impossible for the slave to breathe. The third zone — to my mind the most erotic — is the nose. When the nose is allowed into the crease of the mistress's cunt and she is sitting heavy, it also difficult to breathe, though air might be gotten from the mouth. In my experience, a good sit is most likely to be brought off if the mistress moves through these three zones in the sequence in which I have listed them: chin, mouth, nose. From the bottom's point of view, the top's climax is extraordinarily powerful. Smothered, beneath her in the most intimate way, bearing her weight and her femininity, his head her throne — and this submission, this being used, this actual reduction to a sex object, gives her pleasure. The act makes concrete the terms of a good SM relationship.

Face-sitting in the manner I have described is the mark of a mature and loving SM partnership. Bottoms should be clear on this matter so that they do not lightly squander on a meaningless dominant one of their supreme gifts of submission. Submissives might let this top or that top play with their nipples. But any bottom with a healthy self-respect should be very damn choosy about who sits on his face.

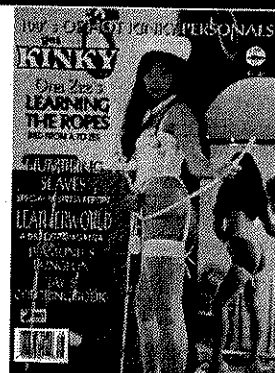
Face-sitting scenarios can be adapted to encompass all of the genres of sadomasochism. Punishment sits (perhaps the mistress chooses latex underwear that "distances" her cunt from the slave; certainly she sits long and hard!), equestrian sits (face-riding, a leash or reins around the head to pull on), leather sits, bondage sits, reward sits (the mistress masturbates the slave while sitting) and the sense of mutual orgasm is literalized, and so on. The equestrian sit is the type most frequently depicted in SM literature.

But why not invent new genres? Recently my top and I have been talking about a bridal sit, and shopping bridal appar-

el outlets for the right underwear. The perverse imagination has received, in face-sitting, another of its several great invitations to explore. There is top-drawer pleasure to be had in this direction: in fact, the most fully shared pleasure available in fem-dom SM.

("Slave W" is called "Professor" by his English lit. students at a major university. He calls his wife, "Mistress.")

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In the days before the bookstore shelves were filled with new SM how-to books, the primary way for SMers to learn was from each other — either in person or via the yet-unpaved Information Superhighway. (All right, maybe it was an information access road.) The give-and-take nature of their discussions, with opinions and experiences shared as readily as salacious tales and real life dramas, remains a valuable resource for both facts and fantasies. *The Guardian* will be presenting excerpts from various online discussions as an ongoing feature.

Suffocation & Strangulation

An online discussion from the archives of The Utopian Network's BBSs

Sir D. 12 Jan 90

Human beings get a very big "rush" when they perform a high risk act. This comes partly from the sexual reaction to the near brush with death. Historical literature shows that hanging (and death by strangulation rather than a broken neck) typically results in an erection and sometimes orgasm (as is alluded to in Melville's *Moby Dick*.)

Every year, many "suicides" occur with no note and the victim found hanging dead. Some of these are the result of persons masturbating while strangling themselves to enhance their orgasms.

If you are going to try self-strangulation, remember that the loop around your throat should be "free running" rather than a hangman's noose (it should release rather than lock.) It is also wise to tie the loop to the floor and cause strangulation by rising (so if you pass out, you wake up to enjoy doing other things.) At the very least, a safety link which will break if too much force is applied is really a good idea. Figure that you will die or have brain damage if it fails and then set the strength (typically less than 100 pounds for a 150 pound subject).

Suffocation is also used by many Tops on their subs. The two most common techniques I know of are the Top blocking the sub's access to breathing air with part of their bodies, e.g. the Top sits on the sub's face until the sub brings the Top to orgasm by oral means, (See Face-Sitting article, page 40) and by use of a device to prevent or restrict breathing.

Were I doing this, I would require the sub to hold his/her hands in a position where gravity will pull them away if he/she passes out. For instance, if the sub were to be on a bed and the Top were sitting on the face, the sub would be required to hold the hands in the air and open. This allows the Top a warning early on if the sub passes out.

Rich F. 14 Jan 90

One of the forms of suffocation that you seem to have left out is "queen-ing," or sitting on the sub's face. Although it sounds safer it too can be dangerous in that the top cannot see the face of the sub.

Tools like the "dry submarine" (a plastic bag over the head of the sub to produce suffocation) have graced the shelves of torturers for quite a few years. Some gags and discipline hel-

pets can also restrict breathing. Use them with great care as they might just be a permanent way to stop scenes with your sub.

Adam S. 16 Jan 90

When an untutored teenaged boy attempts self-strangulation with improvised gear ... and does it alone, at that — the stage is set for tragedy. The same is true if the kid borrows a SCUBA rig, reads the instructions in a book, and gives it a try himself ... in the deep end of the family swimming pool, while no one is around.

On the other hand ... there's a whole range of "breath control," suffocation, and strangulation techniques that *can* be done with reasonable safety — by people who know how.

Clearly, *ordering* someone to hold their breath until given permission to inhale isn't going to cause any late-night trips to the emergency room.

"Burking" ... a dominance gesture, where the Top holds his hand over the sub's mouth while pinching the nose and looking into the bottom's eyes isn't particularly dangerous — but it is a powerful act of submission and trust not to struggle or resist this particular

form of embrace. In general, people *can* go without new air in their lungs for 2-3 minutes and take no harm from it. The human body can go without fresh oxygen in the blood for *another* 3-5 minutes before brain damage is a clear and present danger.

It's when something is tied around the neck, and then tightened, that things start getting seriously risky. Doing it *alone* is, to my mind, out of the question — as is the use of ropes, straps, belts, ... anything strong and *narrow*. Too much danger of broken windpipes and necks ... or a "tie that binds ... and won't come undone."

The safer method of raising cerebral blood pressure while simultaneously cutting off air flow is by using a bath-sized terry cloth towel rolled into a "rat". The towel is used as a garrotte, either by one friend or by (even safer) two. This particular way of doing a "choke hold" is a common method for subduing violent patients in the locked words of State mental hospitals.

Cyril H. 16 Jan 90

OK, I don't think we're really too far apart on this, although some of the things you mention sound a bit heavy for my taste. But what I think we can agree on is that just about all the activities discussed in this area need to be approached with intelligence and care. As I pontificate about obstructing breathing and the like, I have to admit that I'm crazy about gags, for example — and even the use of a simple gag on a sub has to be done with care, lest the sub have a stuffy nose or breathing difficulties. I think we're all grown up enough here to know about agreeing upon a signal with which a gagged sub can communicate "I'm in trouble here."

I further admit that I've long wanted to try an inflatable gag. But I understand these need to be used with particular care and can't be left in too long. Anybody have any experience with these?

Sir D. 18 Jan 90

Yeah — I bought one, tried it out on myself, and decided not to try it on any sub. It applied pressure to the back of the throat, and I was worried about the possibility of inducing vomiting and aspiration. I, too, like gags. Some subs can take them, some cannot.

Sil 18 Jan 90

I have practiced "partial" autoerotic asphyxiation during masturbation by putting a pillow over my face while getting myself off using some of my S&M equipment (nipple torture stuff), dildoes and my hands. It is partial because I can still breathe slightly, but enough where I don't "go under", and when I have to breathe harder in order to get more air into me, it is an incredible turnon. If it gets to the point where I **REALLY** need more air, the pillow is light enough where I can just throw it off. I don't do this that often, just when I feel in the right sexual mood for it.

I've never practiced anything close to this with another person. Not that I wouldn't, but the idea never came to either my mind or his while we were getting it on.

Safety Notes:

This is not an activity to be taken lightly. The improper control of breath or blood flow can be dangerous. Under any circumstances, this calls for extreme caution, attention, and common sense. Be aware of any medical condition which might be exacerbated by these activities, i.e.: hypertension or asthma.

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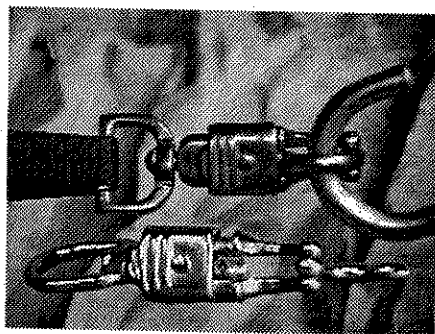
Getting Out of Trouble:

Panic Snaps vs. Quick Release

by Mitch Kessler

The "panic snap" is literally "horse and buggy technology." Replacing key buckles in horse harness, its purpose was to allow the driver to separate a horse from its load quickly, should the horse become wild and unmanageable. A 1200 lb equine runaway does far less damage without another half-ton or so of milk wagon or farmer's buggy careening along behind it.

In BDSM use, they may replace a variety of snap hooks. Most of the time, they are a convenience and something of a novelty. They can be very valuable if a subject becomes agitated or unconscious and needs to be released by someone smaller or weaker. But the panic snap is intended to release someone in a vertical position with their feet on or very close to the ground. It is not a true article of suspension hardware as understood by riggers, sailors, or stagehands.



Panic Snap, closed and open

Since panic snaps are not load-rated by the manufacturers, I was curious as to just how weak the panic snap is, compared to industrial and maritime rigging hardware. Using *The Guardian's* home-made load tester, I cranked to the maximum — 350 lbs. The sample panic snaps *did not* release, fail, or deform. The snaps in question were brass, swivel design, and purchased from Mast Harness Shop. They cost about \$3 each.

AUTOMOBILE SEATBELT ASSEMBLY

A seatbelt assembly is manufacturer-rated to hold 5,000 lbs. Our testing showed that under a load of 150 lbs or more, a seatbelt assembly frequently failed to *release*. For this reason, they are *not* recommended for quick release use.

INDUSTRIAL QUICK RELEASES

Heavy-duty quick releases of this type depend on thick metal sections for their strength, and simple, robust spring mechanisms for security. A typical clamp weighing several pounds and costing about \$100 will safely hold and release a load of 3,500 lbs and hold a load of 4,500 pounds.



YACHTING HARDWARE

The good stuff is manufacturer-rated and made of stainless steel. A spinnaker shackle has an extremely positive side-pull release. A shackle rated for 2,000 or so pounds weighs only a few ounces, and is priced in the \$50 range.



SUSPENSION

Lifting and holding a human being safely off the ground presents a number of rigging challenges. One of these is the need to provide for lowering a helpless person slowly and in a controlled manner. Quick release hardware simply drops the load. The ideal solution is to back up the working hoist or pulley with a secondary hoist of equal strength. There are two

drawbacks to this arrangement: the cost and the amount of headroom taken up by the second pulley system.

A QUICK RELEASE RIGGING

An extremely strong emergency release can be made of 1/4" nylon yacht line and a pair of 2" o.d. rings. Parachute and climber's rings of this size cost a few dollars each and are rated at 5,000 lbs.

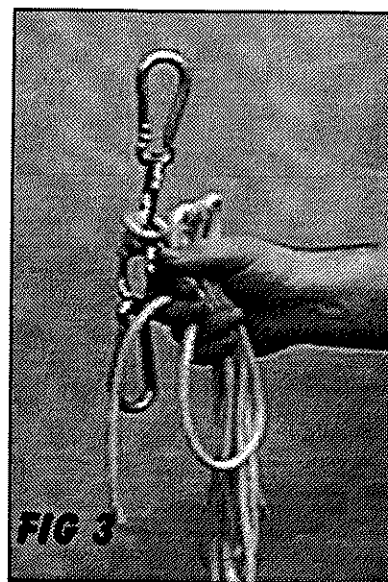
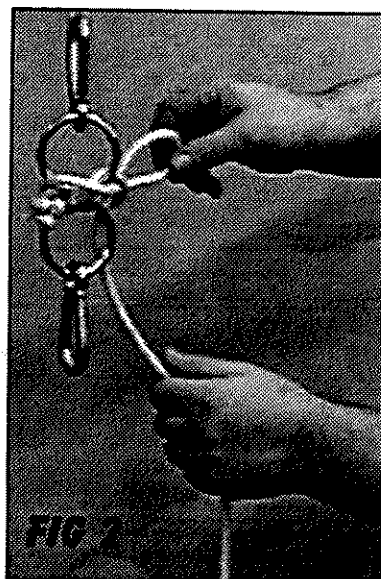
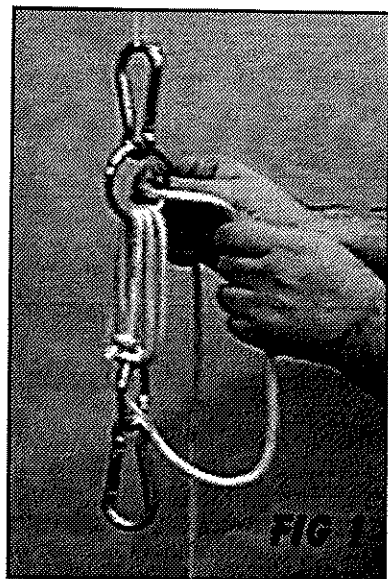
For this particular purpose it hardly makes sense to skimp on hardware quality, but if the "real thing" isn't available, yacht-grade welded stainless steel rings made of 1/4" rod will handle a 2,000 lb. load before deforming. Nylon line of 1/4" diameter has a breaking strength of almost 1,500 lbs.

The line is tied to one ring (which will be the bottom ring) and passed through both rings. (Fig 1) The two rings are drawn together by carefully pulling on the free end, making sure that the coils remain next to each other in the order that they were wound between the rings. The assembly is locked with a half-hitch. (Fig. 2)

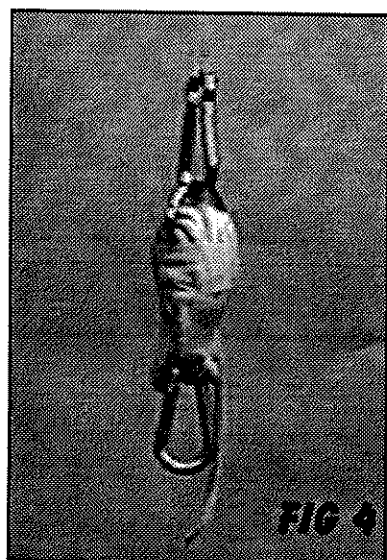
Then the long end is coiled, draped through the upper ring, (Fig 3) and taped in place with PAPER masking tape. (Fig 4) A small end is left exposed to speed the removal of the tape.

The length of the 1/4" line will depend on the amount of vertical movement and mechanical advantage desired. An 18' line achieves 6' of vertical movement, or "travel". While this arrangement has a theoretical mechanical advantage of 3:1 (a 150 lb load can be resisted with 50lbs of pressure,) the element of friction doubles the drag.

In use, (Fig 5) the tape is broken off, the long line uncoiled and laid out so it is free to run, the slipknot is undone, and the long line slowly fed through the upper ring. If more travel is provided, the rope bundle can be grasped near one of the rings and the long end allowed to pass through the ring.



When gathering the coils, make sure that they are not so long that they interfere with the use of the bottom attachment point.

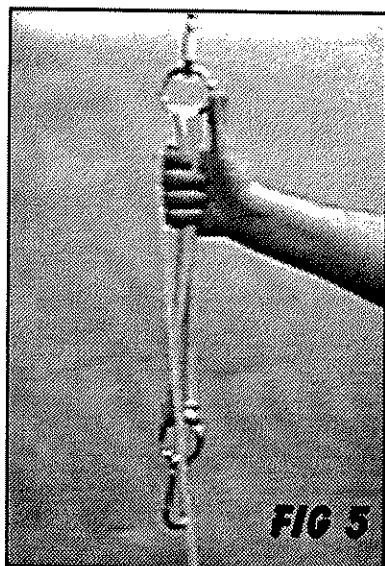


If you're traveling to play, the entire assembly, secured with tape, can be easily transported in a gear bag.

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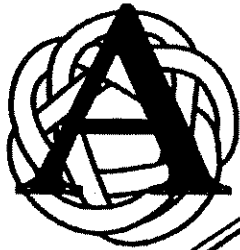
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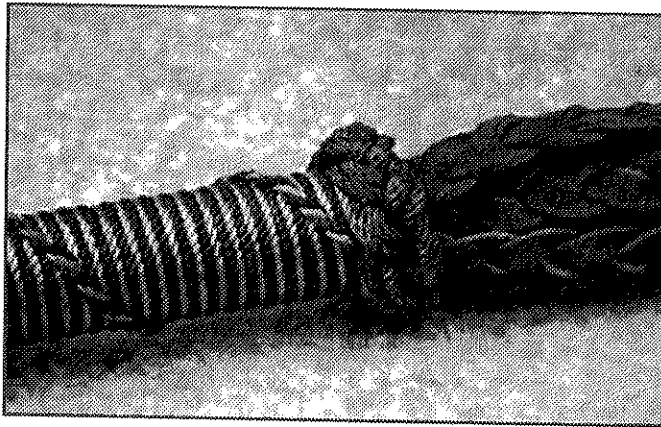
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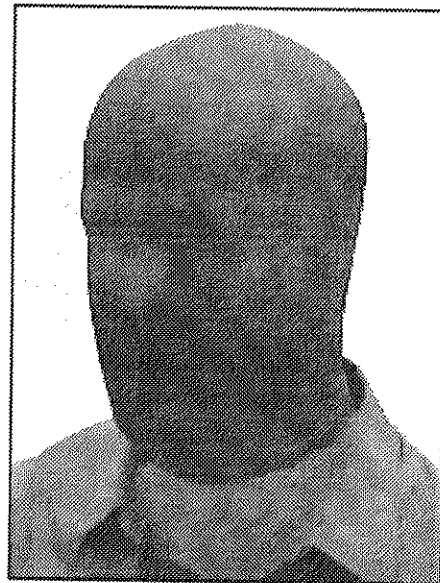
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Stocks, continued from page 33

the wrist openings. Rough out the neck opening by removing waste with the Forstner bit, leaving some material inside your layout lines. Cut out the remainder of the wrist holes using a band saw or saber saw with a wood cutting blade. If using a saber saw, work very slowly, as these blades have a tendency to "wander" on the bottom side.

Install the drum sanding attachment on the drill press. Using coarse (40-80 grit) abrasive, carefully remove the remaining waste from the head opening, right up to the layout marks.

Remove any remaining waste from the wrist holes in the same manner. Round off the outer corners of the stocks with the drum sander. (Caution. . .the wood may tend to "kick" as you reach the tip of the corner.)

Using the router and 1/2" rounding-over bit, round over the edges of the neck and wrist openings. This is essential to prevent abrading the skin of your subject.

Using the 13/32" brad-point bit on the drill press, bore out the pilot holes for the threaded insert attachment points (indicated with the letter A on Figure 1). These holes are made to a depth of 2" on the top and side edges and 1" on the face surface.

Set up your table saw with a smooth ripping blade, thin kerf preferred. Align the rip fence and featherboard to cut the centerline of the stocks. Check your setting on a piece of scrap first. Slowly make the center rip cut — remember that this is thick hardwood and the blade will overheat if fed too fast.

WATCH THOSE FINGERS !!!

Finish-sand the entire piece. Use a 200-400 grit paper, or do several passes with progressively finer grit. The drum sander works well for the openings and edges; a belt or random-orbit sander is best for the faces.

Staining and Finishing:

The finish of the piece is largely a matter of individual taste. Maple looks excellent without any stain, but will absorb any stain well. Experiment on a piece of scrap to determine how much and how long to wait before wiping down. A sealer applied first will limit the stain's penetration and give you a lighter shade.

Apply 2 or 3 coats of varnish after the stain has dried completely. Light buffing with 000 steel wool between varnish coats gives the smoothest finish. After the final varnish coat has dried, rub out the surfaces with 0000 steel wool. Apply a coat of finishing wax and buff to a high gloss (a buffing attachment for your hand drill makes life a lot easier).

Hardware Attachment:

Place the two stocks halves together, align and clamp in the closed position. Be careful to protect the wood finish —

use soft material under the clamp jaws. Place the hinge, and mark the screw locations with a prick punch. Using the #8 pilot hole bit, bore 1 1/2" deep holes. Attach the hinge using the 1 1/2" #8 brass screws. Repeat this process for the latch assembly on the other side, using the 1" #8 brass screws and 1" deep pilot holes. *Be sure to use the screws I've specified, as the screws supplied with the hardware are not large enough to withstand the stresses imposed by this use.*

Install the threaded inserts into their holes using a screwdriver or special insert wrench. Take your time doing this, as it is easy to get these in crooked.

You are now ready to try out your new stocks on a willing subject. Enjoy!

(Frere Tomas is a New England engineer and furniture craftsman. He can provide these stocks finished, or as a ready-to-assemble-and-finish kit. E-mail may be sent to FRERETOMAS@aol.com)

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F potential Sub needs a strong, patient M Dom w/good sense of humor to introduce her to the joys of sexual D&S and S&M. If you have a firm hand & a warm heart please write: Pam, POB#40663, Pasadena, CA 91114. Prefer local. Photo a big plus. 20

Attractive, professional, masculine slave, SWM 40, bi-switch, seeks compatible woman or TS who enjoys loving, intense, devoted relationship. Will worship forever. Ray B., POB 1156, Maricopa, AZ 85239. Picture please. Novice or experienced OK. 20

Long-term friendship sought by gentlemanly N.CA top. If you are a WF who needs discreet, caring BDSM, write me with confidence. Married OK. Dominic, Box 2966 SRO, CA 95405 23

RUBBER LOVERS

Captain Latex sks females, couples for small active grp. Would also love meeting Sub. Mature women to whom I could offer Wedlock. Extra HiHeels, street Rubber wear a must. 20

Bernie & Drew Enterprises, 905 Church Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11218-2709 The BEST Rubber Glue for old or new \$14./oz. The BEST Rubber bellows for gags, toys, plugs \$8. Capt. Latex (718)693-5114 20

Rates: \$2.50 per line, for personal and one-time for-sale ads, *plus* \$5.00 for a bold, all-caps headline.

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Ads accepted by FAX with MasterCard, (Lady) Visa, or Discover. By mail with check, money order, or credit card. (but, remember, "...we don't take American Express!") No phone orders, please. We want to be sure that the copy is accurate and that we have your ID information and signature in writing. All personal information will remain confidential with us.

Send your classified ad, together with your check or money order for the full amount to:

The Utopian Network, P.O. Box 1146, New York, NY 10156 or FAX it to (516) 842-7518

Please sign your ad with your real name, address and phone which will remain confidential with us.

Photo Contest



Want to see your favorite dungeon or SM photo in *The Guardian*?

Want to win First Prize?
(A check for \$50.00!)

Send us your SM-theme photo. We will select a 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prize. Other entries will be published on a space-available basis.

What is a "prize-winner?"
A picture that *says* something.
(Not just a pretty face or bod.)

Groups are good — three is better than two — odd numbers are more interesting than even (usually).
(Sorta like sex.)

Technical quality *does* count. Format does not — you can submit color or black and white, polaroids too. (No slides, please.)

You need *not* be a professional to enter. In fact, we encourage everyone who thinks there is something special about a particular photo to enter it.

Hey, you never know !!

If your photo is chosen for publication, we will need a model release for each person in the photo and we need to know that you have a photo ID of the model as well.

All entries become the property of The Utopian Network.

Enter Today!

"The decision of the judges is final!" -- But, who are the judges?

We are. (It's our magazine, so what we say goes, right? Not exactly!)

In case you're wondering, what do whipmakers think they know about photography? --

Mitch Kessler is a graduate of the Germane School of Photography in New York. Mitch was a photographic Artist in Residence at Hofstra University on Long Island. He had a

photography and photo processing business before devoting his time and energy to whips and paddles and straps and things.

Gerrie Blum grew up in her father's photography business and studio in New York. Jovega Studios was a pioneer in home portraiture and candid weddings after World War II. Gerrie worked in the black and white dark-room and as a photographer for her father, while she was a student at

Hunter College. Later she worked in photojournalism for weekly newspapers, in Rockland County and in Manhattan, before meeting Mitch and joining him in making whips and ...

So, we will try to be fair and impartial in our judging. Which means that if you don't win the first time, by all means, enter another photo next time. Besides, you will have the chance to see your work in print -- win or lose.

Yes, I want to enter *The SandMUtopian Guardian* Photo Contest. (Mail to POB 1146, NY NY 10156.)

Enclosed is a photo I took. These are some interesting details about how it came to be:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **State/Province** _____ **ZIP/Postal Code** _____
Country _____ **Phone** _____
I agree to the terms of the contest. **Signature:** _____

Writer's Guidelines -- for *The SandMUTopian Guardian*

a Journal of BDSM Realities

The *Guardian* is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as a combination of the *Popular Mechanics*™ and *Consumer Reports*™ of kinky sex. Our readership includes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or Mac format.

PAYMENT: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, including illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we will respond to all submissions within 60 days. SASE required for return.

We take the broadest possible view of what are appropriate topics, so long as content provides *information*. No fiction, fantasy, poetry or polemic.

Topics could include:

EQUIPMENT: how to use it, where to buy it, how to make it.

TECHNIQUES: physical, psychological, technical how-to's.

RELATIONSHIPS: Roles & Goals, Paradigms of Submission ... "making it work" articles.

EROTIC SCENARIOS: how they're done, pleasures expected, health and safety concerns.

PERSONALITY PROFILES: Biography or interviews.

LEGAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: history, current status, possible outcomes, importance.

IDEAS: Essays, "Op Ed" Pieces, Personal Testimony.

(To be useful, "idea" pieces need more fact & observation — less opinion & reaction.)

CRAFTS AND SKILLS: "Merit badge" stuff, woodworking, knot tying, braiding, first aid, etc.

In fact, almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article, so long as it meets the primary requirement of imparting some *new* information or creative inspiration to at least *some* readers.

SHORTER PIECES.

We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, media clips.

VIDEO AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

What Authors, Producers, and Craftworkers have to say about themselves and their work is probably more useful, and more interesting to readers, than critique by us. We want product releases, and book and video previews, in which they describe their own work in their own words. Since not every author wants to be his/her own reviewer, we will also be doing traditional reviews of material submitted. We also buy reviews from writers.

We look forward to hearing from you.

DEADLINE:

The next issue of *The Guardian* is #21, and will be ready for the printer the first week in April. If your piece misses the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedules.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality -- or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "pin-up" art, rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work can be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we will also need the negative for proper reproduction -- and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the new law.

Every Household Needs a *Guardian*!

Keep *The SandMUTopian Guardian* coming direct to your dungeon!
Subscribe today. Don't miss a single article!

Each issue will be chock-full of articles you can use --

Whether you are Top, Bottom or Switch --

Written by experienced and knowledgeable men and women

Ads for quality products from individual craftspeople, large stores or manufacturers.

How-to articles, book previews and reviews and subjects of special interest.

If you did *not* get Issue #18, you missed:

How to make a belt into a pair of cuffs with an adapter you make at home;

Our legal-eagle writing on Consent as a Defense to Assault;

Reviews of two new general reference S/M books,
and three whipcrackin' technique tapes;

If you missed #19, you did *not* read about:

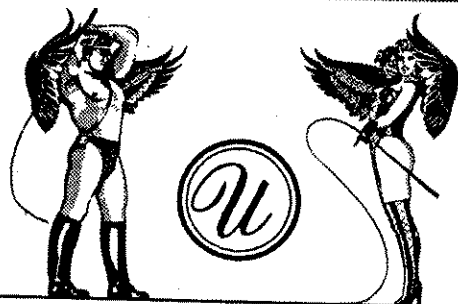
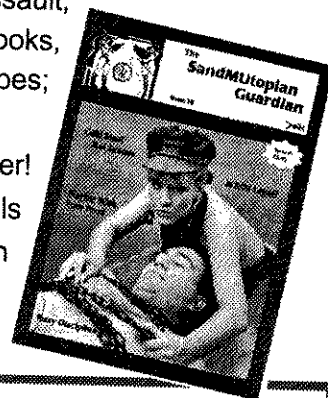
How to make a Spanking Bench — if you're *not* a carpenter!

Part One of How to Handle the Personals

Caning ... Spanking ... and an SM Haircutting Salon

... and much, much more!

(But ... there are still back issues available, so call or write today.)



The SandMUTopian Guardian

a Quarterly Publication of:

The Utopian Network

POB 1146, New York, NY 10156

(516) 842-1711 M-F 11am-9pm ET

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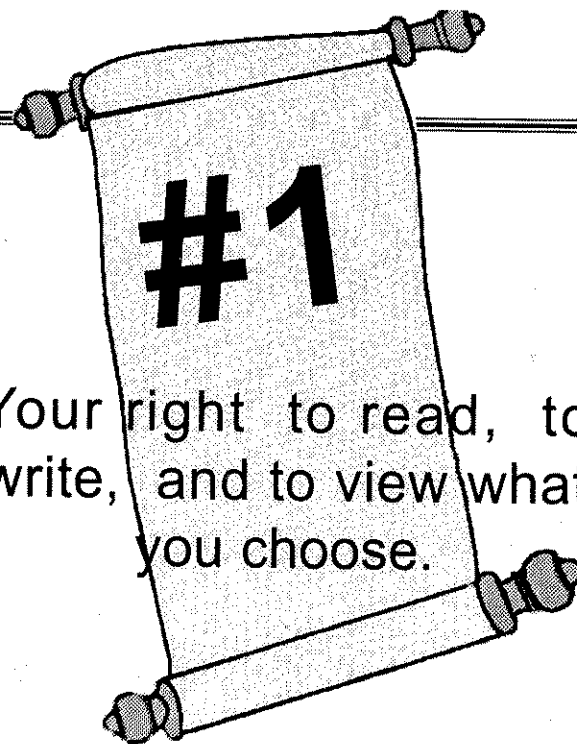
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